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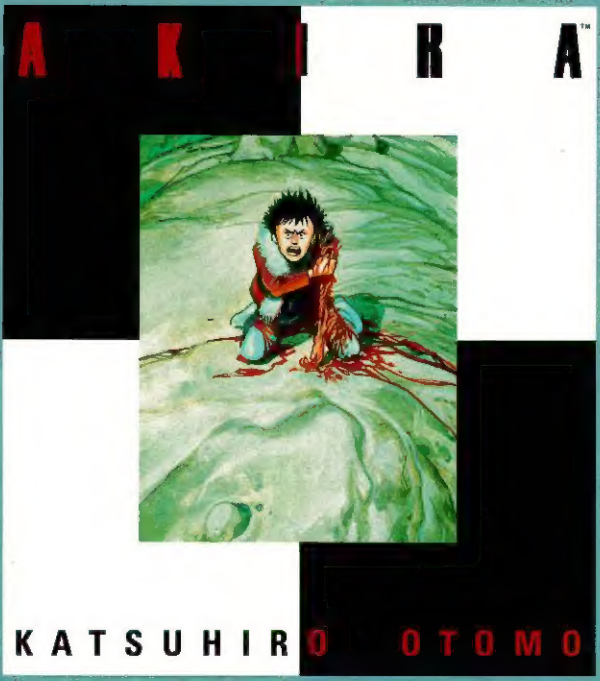

COLLECTION 4

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

BOOK FOUR

AKIRA 10™

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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 10

THE AWAKENING

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

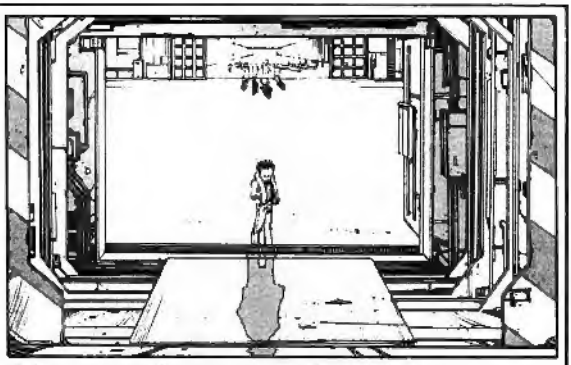
The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo,** plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

In the old city, a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a terrified child possessing extraordinary telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo,** one of Kaneda's close friends, then mysteriously vanishes. As a result, **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel,** and an underground resistance group, bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—Kay's "brother", **Ryu,** and Ryu's closest friend and subordinate, a man who proves his value to the group when he detects and very nearly kills a spy from the Colonel's organization. Ryu's superiors in the resistance include **Nezu**—who publicly leads the party that opposes the government—and a powerful religious leader with strong precognitive gifts—**Lady Miyako.**

The **Colonel** already has a number of children under his control, each one possessing a

Kaneda **Kay** **Takashi** **Ryu**

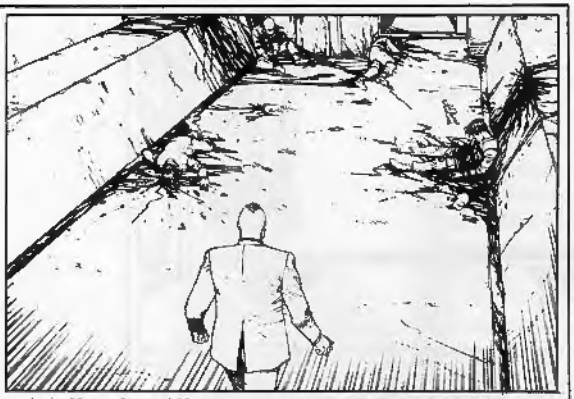


distinct set of psychic talents and identified by a number marked on the hand. (**Lady Miyako** was, at one time, **Number 19** in this series.) The most powerful of the children is the mental giant—**Akira.** Because of his immense psychic abilities, **Akira** has been suspended in cryogenic sleep beneath the earth's surface for almost four decades.

The Colonel's chief medical advisor, called **Doctor,** detecting tremendous telepathic potential in the delinquent **Tetsuo,** subjects him to painful electronic and chemical experiments. These experiments awaken Tetsuo's talents, and the **Colonel** redubs the boy **Number 41.** Unfortunately, as his powers grow, a monstrous side of Tetsuo's nature also appears. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, eventually murdering one of his and Kaneda's closest friends—**Yamagata**—and attacking **Kaneda,** who, along with **Kay,** is subsequently captured by the Colonel and taken to his installation.

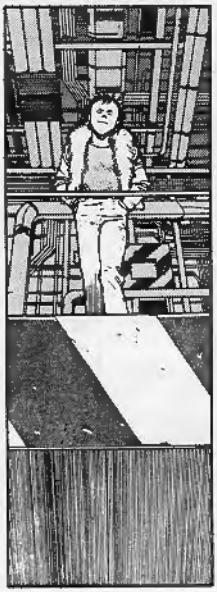
Tetsuo learns of Akira's existence and is unable to tolerate the notion that the sleeping child may be more powerful than he is, so he forces the **Doctor** to tell him where his rival lies. Determined to seek him out, **Tetsuo** brutally attacks the **Colonel** who tries to restrain him. **Kiyoko, Masaru,** and **Takashi**—the psychic children, who, like **Lady Miyako,** fear Akira's power and worry about the disaster **Tetsuo** may unleash—use their talents

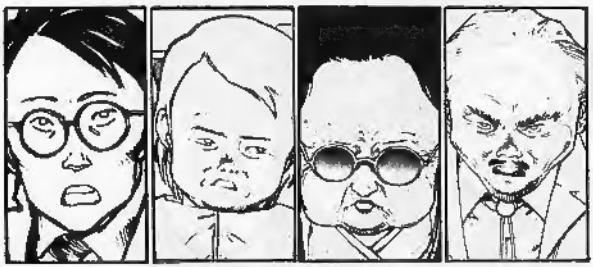
Tetsuo **Kiyoko** **The Colonel** **The Doctor**



to help **Kaneda** and **Kay** escape from their cells. Armed with a laser, **Kaneda** routs **Tetsuo,** who flees the installation and sets out for where **Akira** sleeps. Before the **Colonel** recovers, **Kaneda** and **Kay** are also able to escape "aided" by the same spy Ryu's lieutenant previously left for dead. Although they don't trust the man, **Kaneda** and **Kay** bring him along as they, too, head for the Olympic site. **Ryu** and his lieutenant are working undercover at the Olympic Stadium, posing as soldiers.

Determined to prevent **Tetsuo** from unleashing a disaster, the **Colonel** alerts his troops and scientists. As everyone finally reaches the site, fighting breaks out.

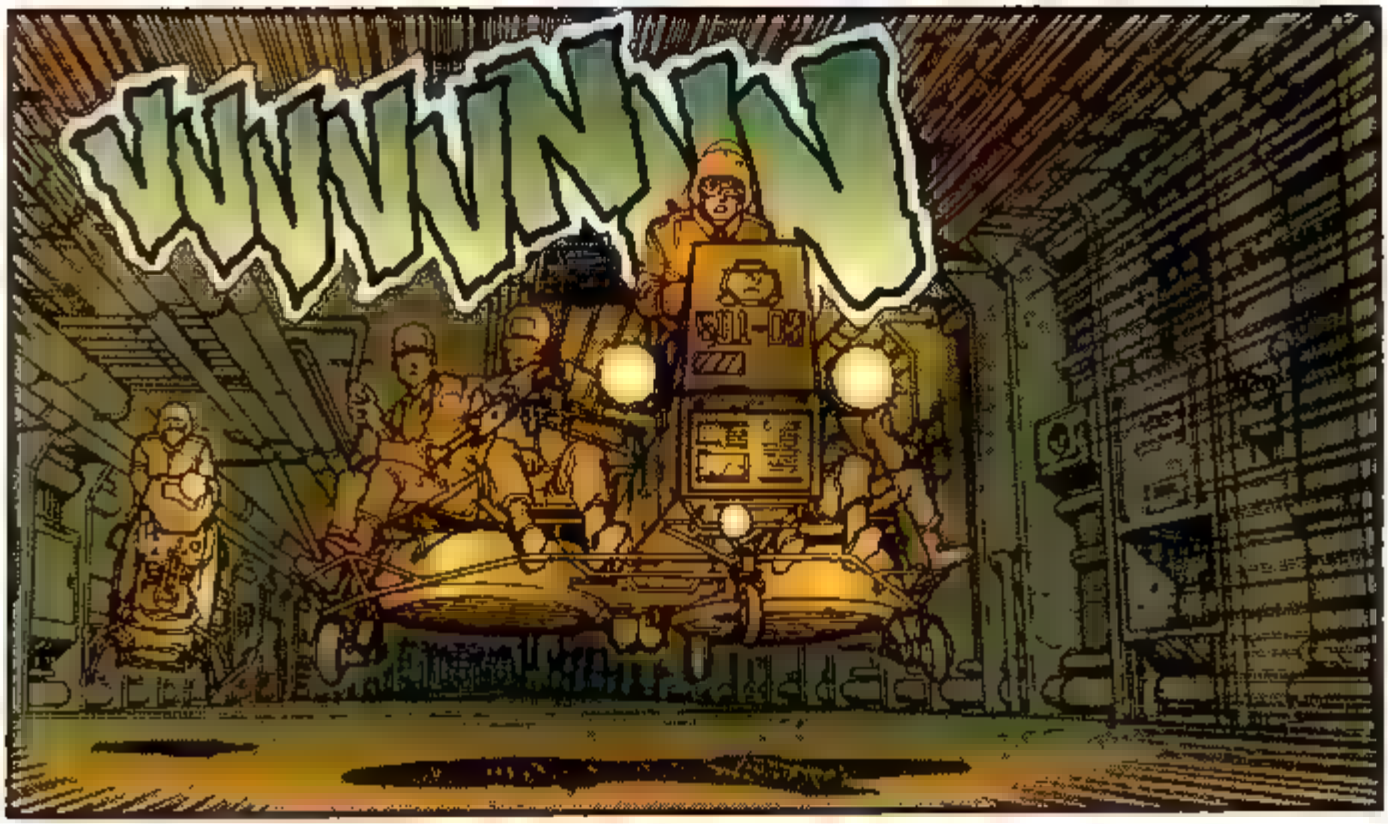




Spy **Masaru** **Lady Miyako** **Nezu**

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
LOOK!
LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END!
WELL, IT'S NOT!
19
NS
AN INTERSECTION...
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE MAIN TUNNEL.

THIS IS SPECTACULAR.
WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
HUNH?
VVVNNN
WHAT IS THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
TOLD YOU SO.
VVVVNNN


VUUUNNNN

HERE THEY COME.

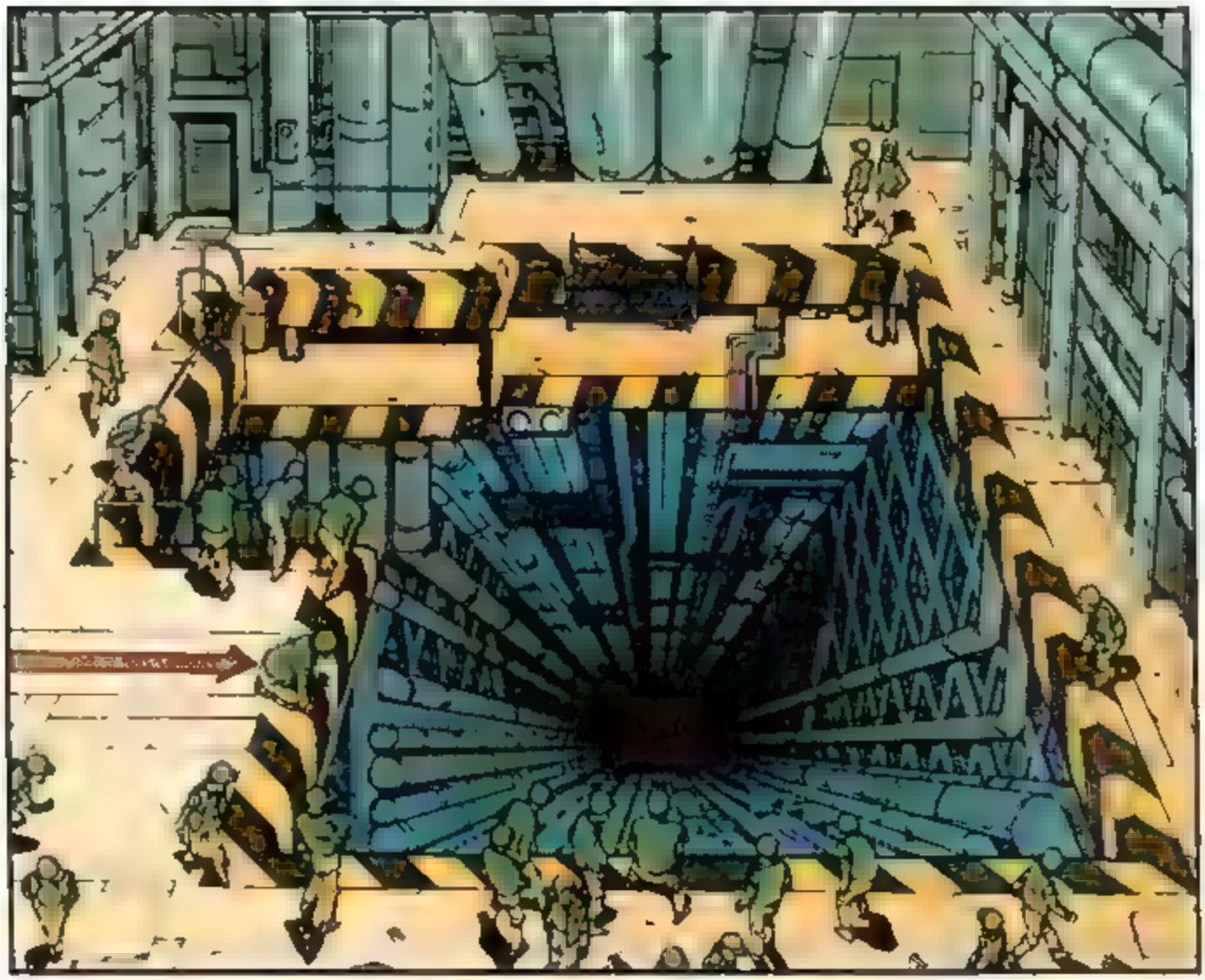
!

NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT WE CAN T TAKE ANY CHANCES.

VUUUNNNN

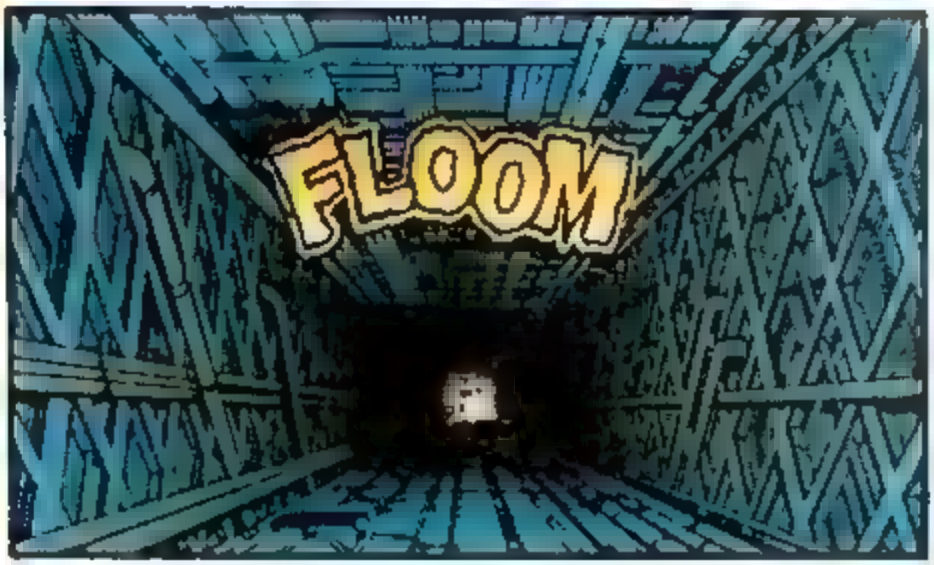
DID YOU SEE THAT, KAY? THAT SUCKER COULD CARRY SIX PASSENGERS!
YEAH. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HEADING FOR A CONVENTION DOWN THERE!

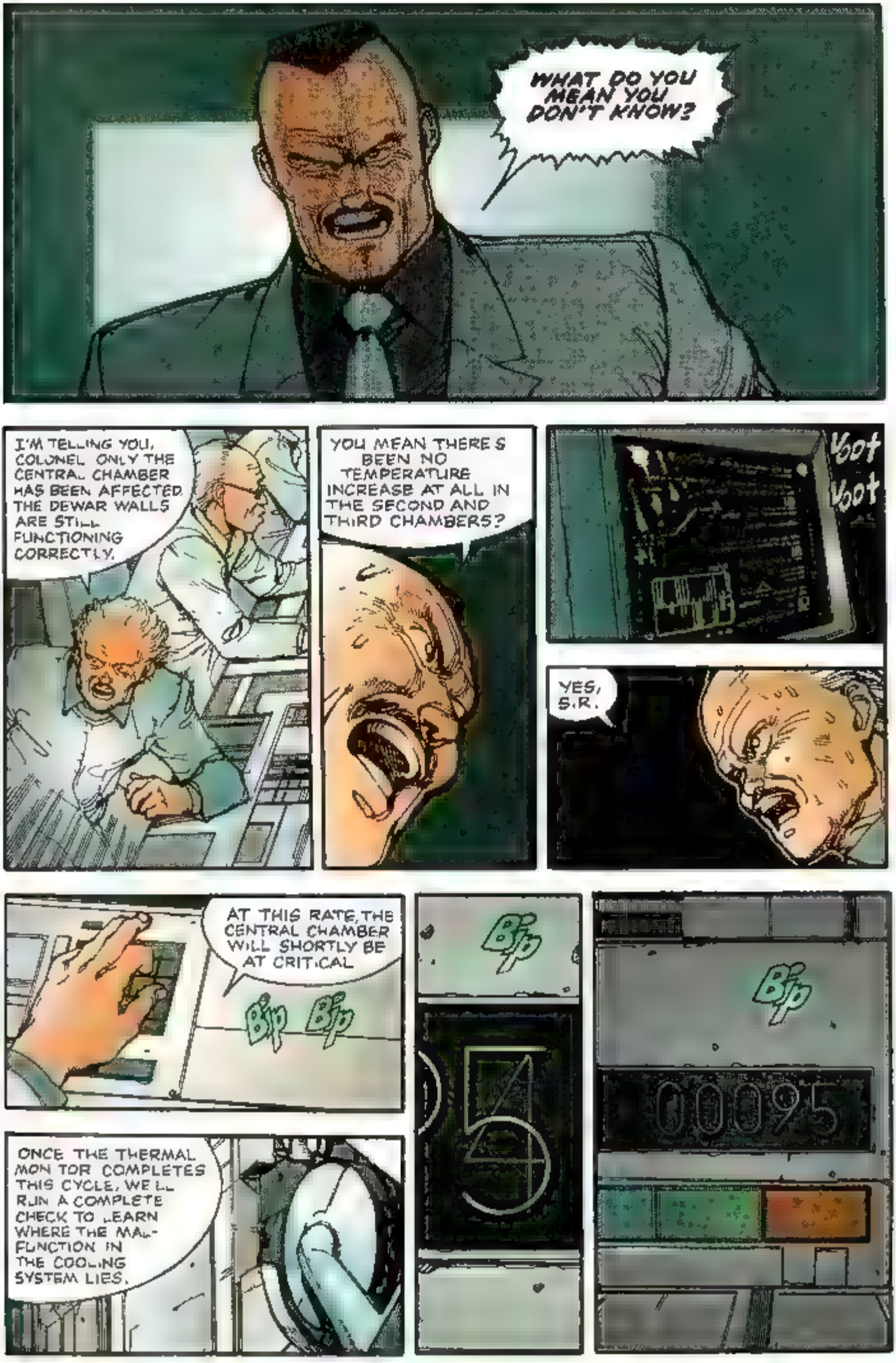
SO LET'S HEAD IN THE SAME DIREC-TION!
!
KANEDA, WAIT!
HMM?
VVVVVNNN
GET UNDER COVER! WHAT ARE YOU HANGING AROUND FOR?
VVVNNN
KANEDAAA!!!

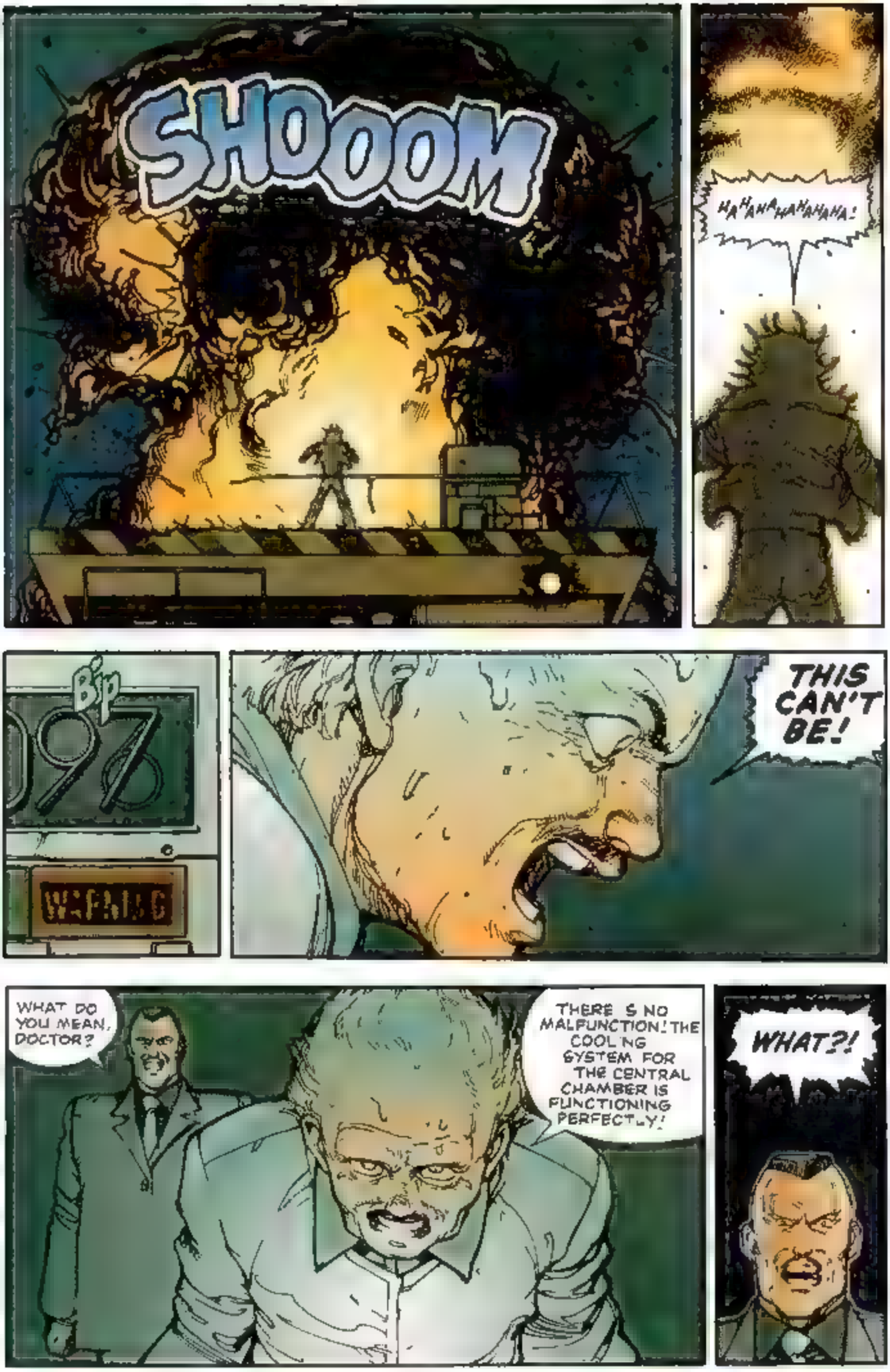


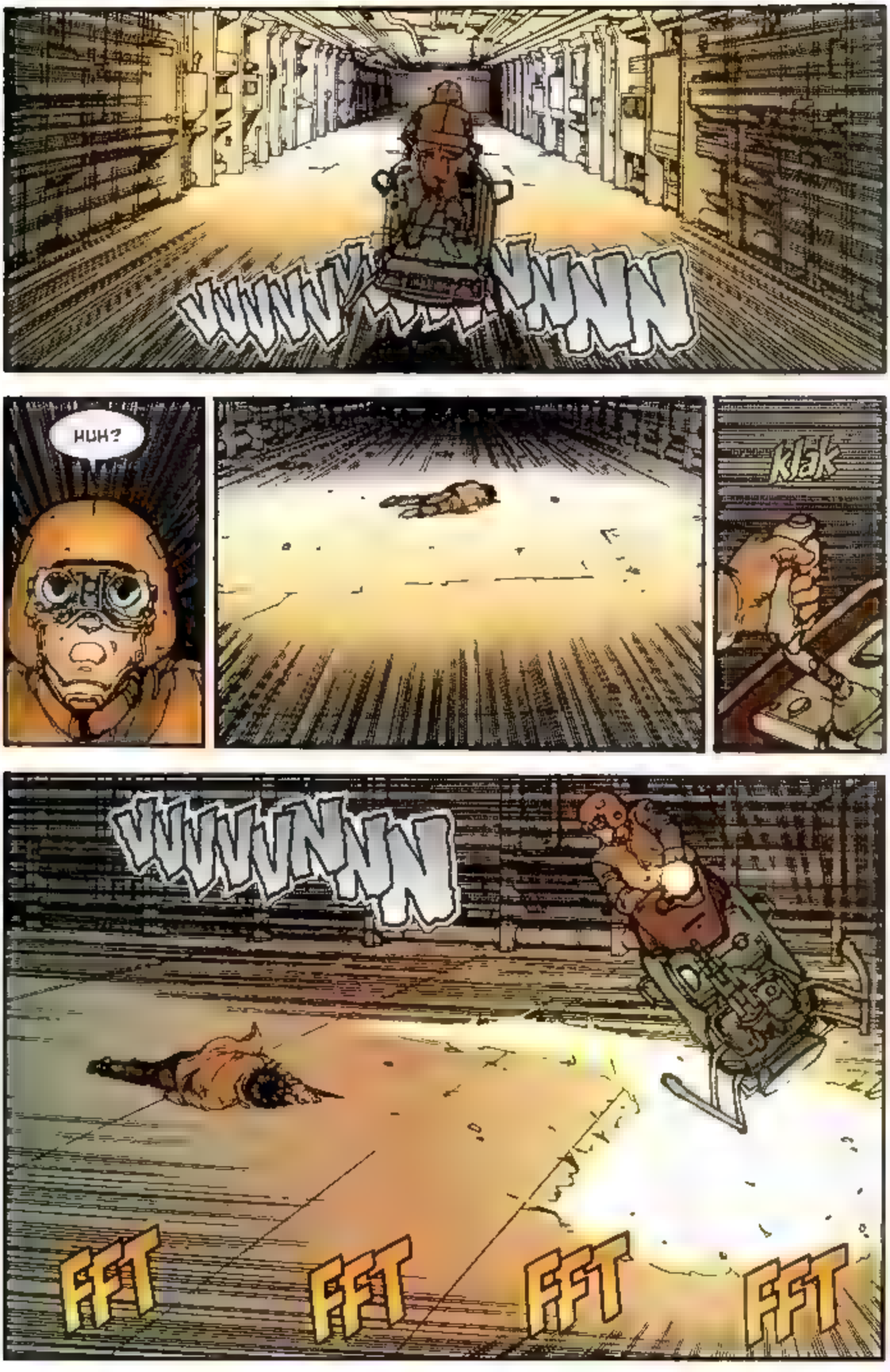
I JUST SAW ANOTHER FLASH DOWN THERE SOME-THING MUST HAVE EXPLODED.

MAYDAY FORCE TO FLYING SQUADRON FLYING SQUADRON. DO YOU COPY? COME IN PLEASE!


FLOOM


WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?
I'M TELLING YOU, COLONEL. ONLY THE CENTRAL CHAMBER HAS BEEN AFFECTED. THE DEWAR WALLS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY.
YOU MEAN THERE'S BEEN NO TEMPERATURE INCREASE AT ALL IN THE SECOND AND THIRD CHAMBERS?
Voot Voot
YES, S.R.
AT THIS RATE, THE CENTRAL CHAMBER WILL SHORTLY BE AT CRITICAL
Bip Bip
ONCE THE THERMAL MON TOR COMPLETES THIS CYCLE, WE LL RUN A COMPLETE CHECK TO LEARN WHERE THE MAL-FUNCTION IN THE COOLING SYSTEM LIES.
Bip
5
Bip
00095


SHOOOM
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
THIS CAN'T BE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOCTOR?
THERE'S NO MALFUNCTION! THE COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY!
WHAT?!

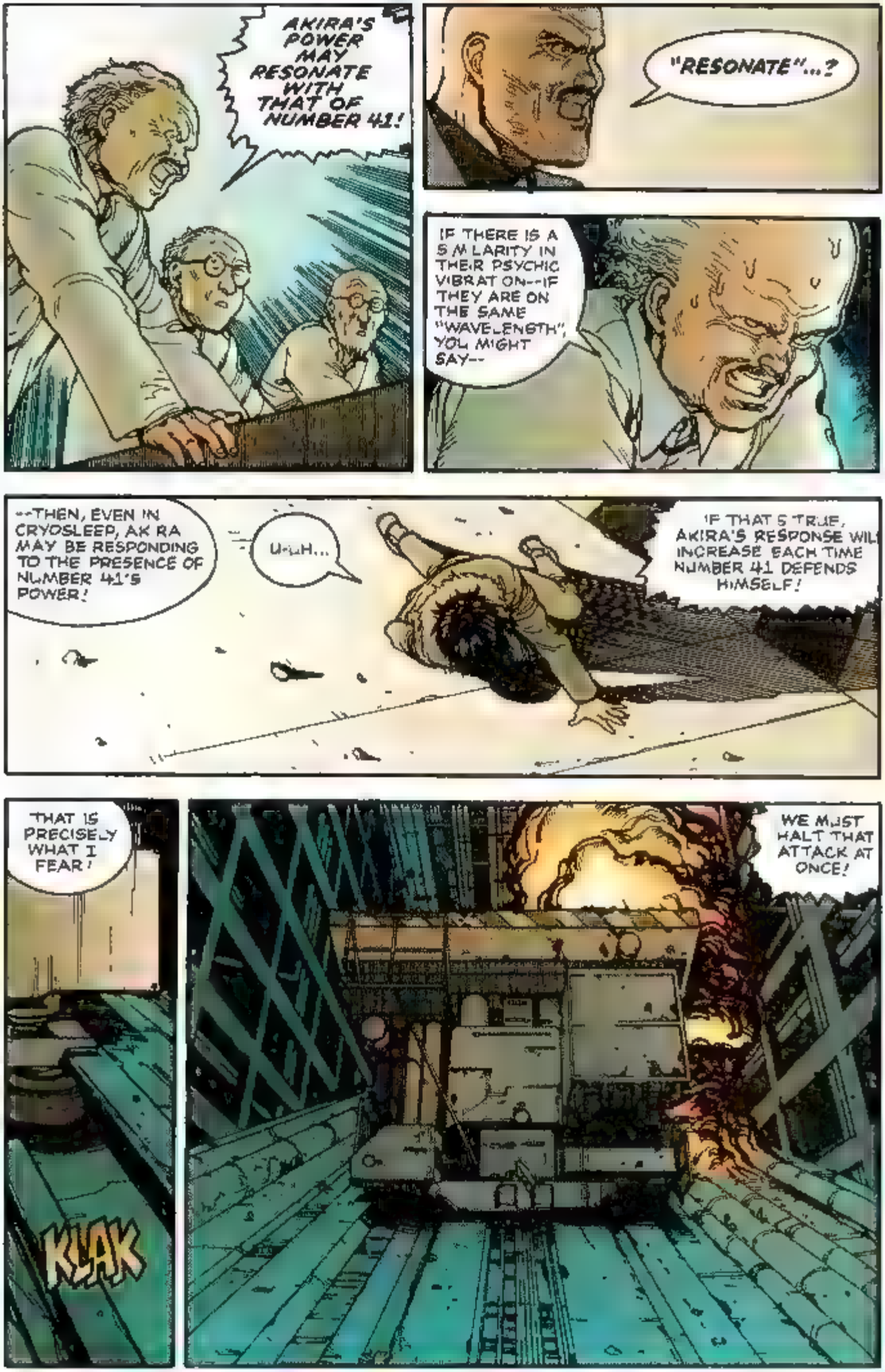

VVVVVVVVNNN
HUH?
klak
VVVVVVNNN
FFT
FFT
FFT
FFT

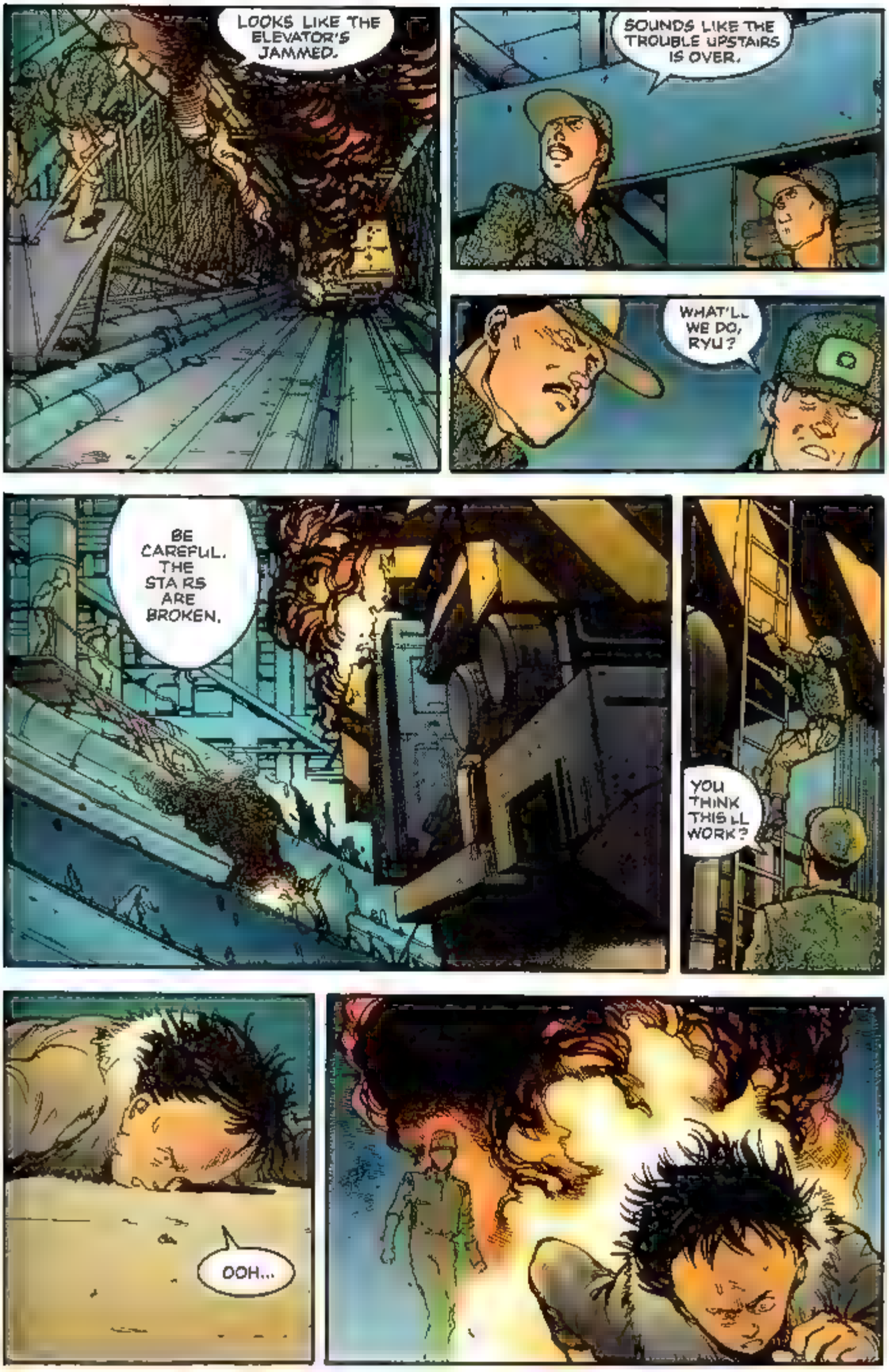
NOW!
HOP
EH--?!
HEY!!
WHOP
VVT
VVT
VVT
THOK
YEEK!!
HOW DO YOU CONTROL THIS THING?!
VVT
VVT
VVT
VVT

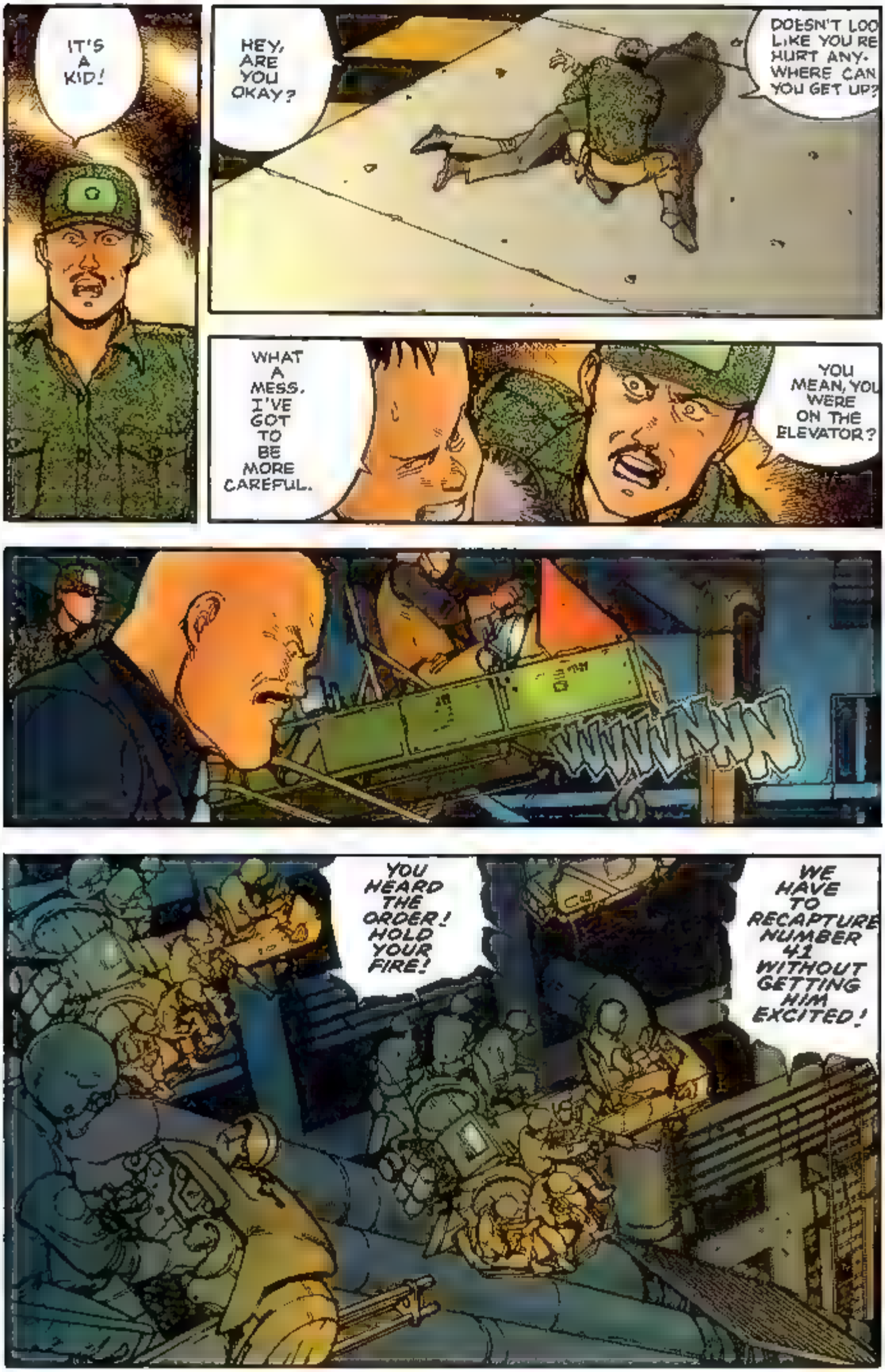
WWWNNN
YAAAH!
FWOOM
EEP!
BLOOOM

VVT VVT VVT
VVVVVNNN
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
YAA--!
KRASH
AAUGH!
GASP
HA HA HA
POW

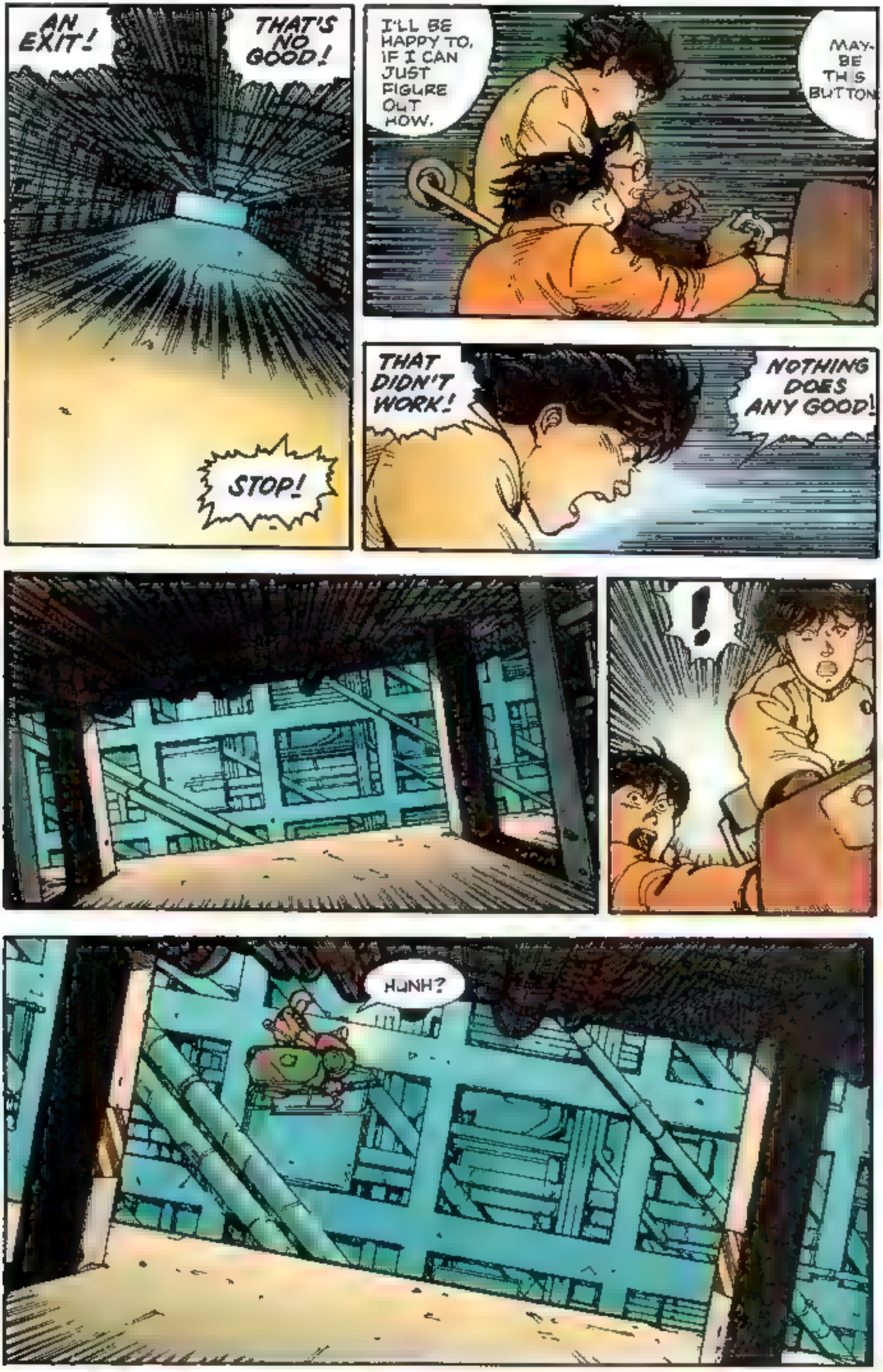
BOOOM
AAAH--!
COULD...
COULD IT BE...?


AKIRA'S POWER MAY RESONATE WITH THAT OF NUMBER 41!
"RESONATE"...?
IF THERE IS A S M LARITY IN THEIR PSYCHIC VIBRAT ON--IF THEY ARE ON THE SAME "WAVELENGTH", YOU MIGHT SAY--
--THEN, EVEN IN CRYOSLEEP, AK RA MAY BE RESPONDING TO THE PRESENCE OF NUMBER 41'S POWER!
U-uH...
IF THAT S TRUE, AKIRA'S RESPONSE WIL INCREASE EACH TIME NUMBER 41 DEFENDS HIMSELF!
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I FEAR!
KLAK
WE MUST HALT THAT ATTACK AT ONCE!

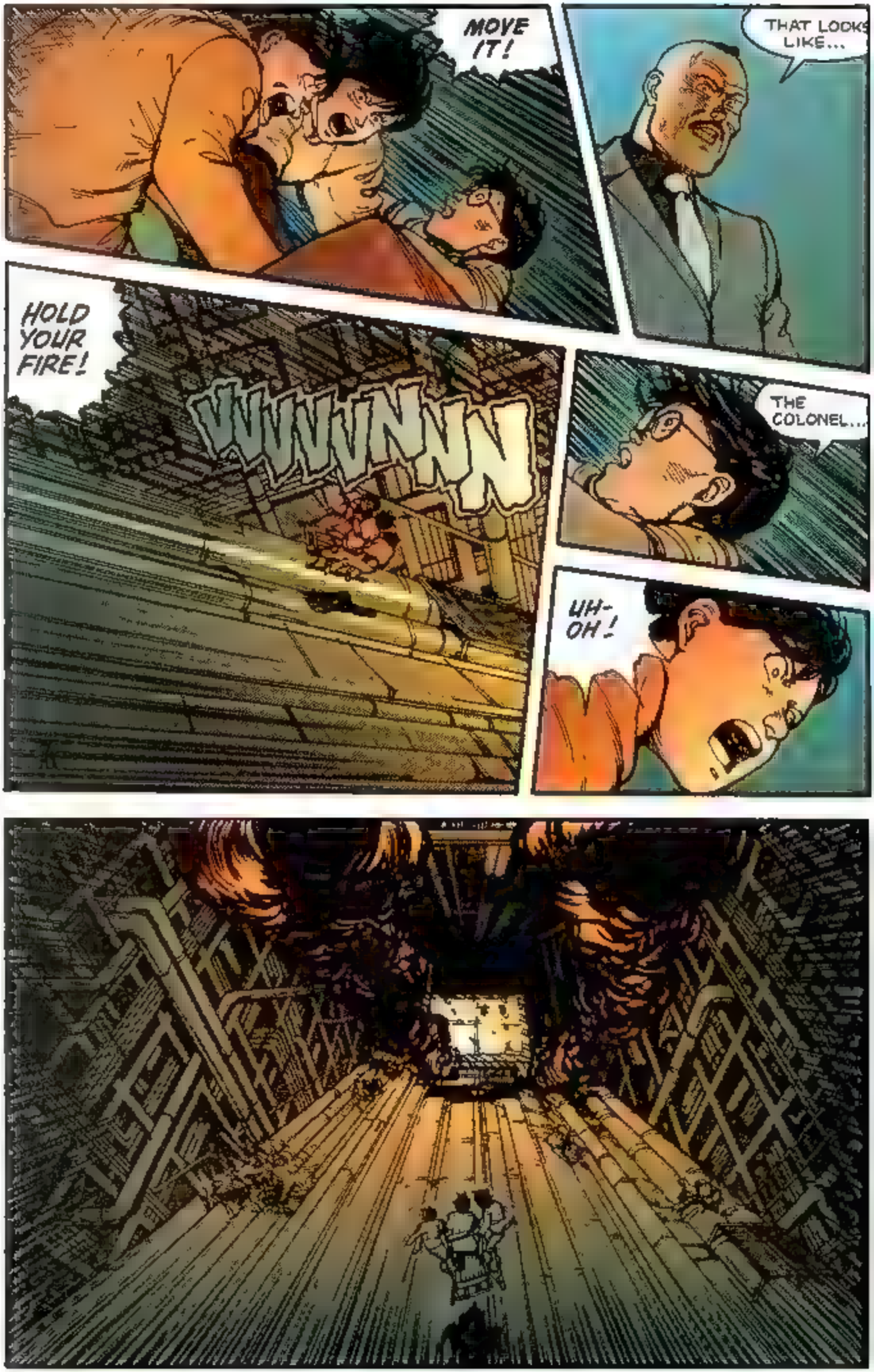

LOOKS LIKE THE ELEVATOR'S JAMMED.
SOUNDS LIKE THE TROUBLE UPSTAIRS IS OVER.
WHAT'LL WE DO, RYU?
BE CAREFUL. THE STA RS ARE BROKEN.
YOU THINK THIS LL WORK?
OOH...

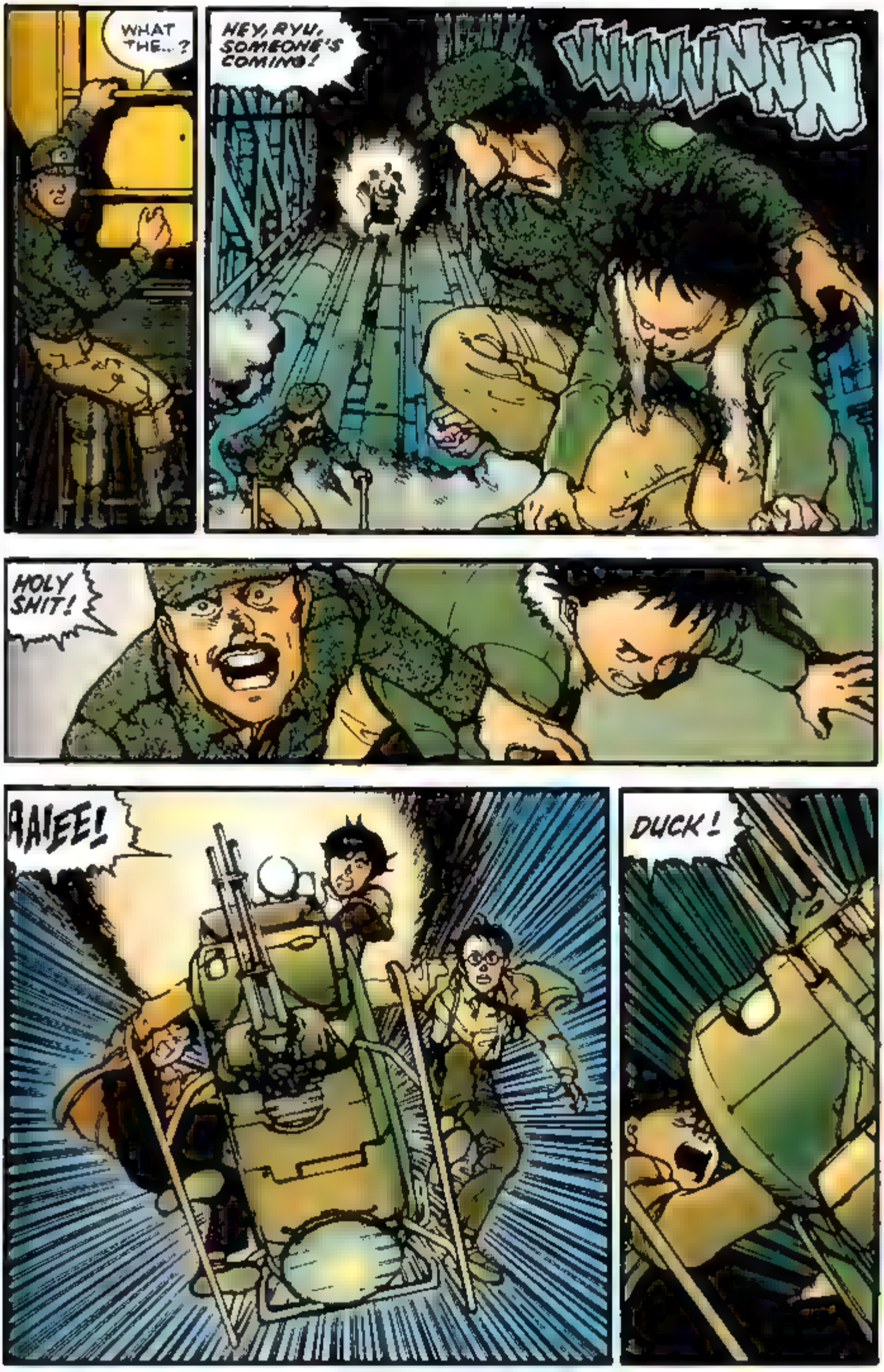

IT'S A KID!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
DOESN'T LOO LIKE YOU RE HURT ANY- WHERE CAN YOU GET UP?
WHAT A MESS. I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
YOU MEAN, YOU WERE ON THE ELEVATOR?
WUUUNNN
YOU HEARD THE ORDER! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
WE HAVE TO RECAPTURE NUMBER 41 WITHOUT GETTING HIM EXCITED!

FFT FFT FFT
WHOO!
HOLD ON!
THE WHOLE THING'S TILTING!
FFT FFT FFT
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU LEANED AWAY FROM IT!
I'M TRYING!
KANEDA, WE'RE VEERING TOWARDS THE WALL! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
VVVVUNNN
MY HANDS CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
FFT
FFT
FFT
LOOK!


AN EXIT!
THAT'S NO GOOD!
STOP!
I'LL BE HAPPY TO, IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW.
MAY-BE THIS BUTTON
THAT DIDN'T WORK!
NOTHING DOES ANY GOOD!
!
HUNH?

YAAAAH!
VVVVVNNN
WHAT WAS THAT?
YEEEK!
IT'S THEM!

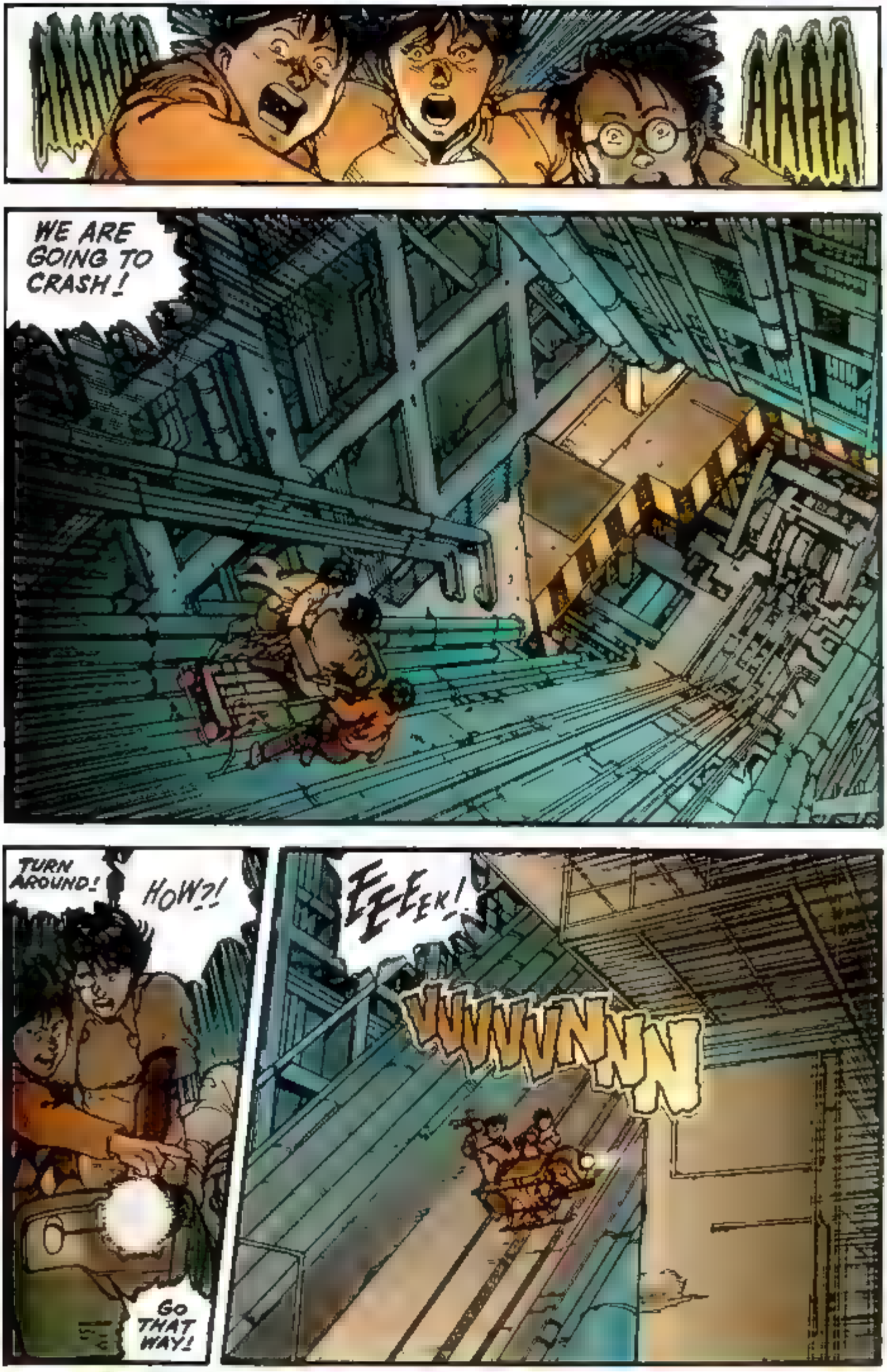

MOVE IT!
THAT LOOKS LIKE...
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
VUVVVNNN
THE COLONEL...
UH-OH!


WHAT THE...?
HEY, RYU, SOMEONE'S COMING!
VVVVVNNN
HOLY SHIT!
RAIEE!
DUCK!

VVVVRRRN
:GASP:
OH!
.. KAY...?
THAT MAN WE PASSED...
RYUU!
KAY!

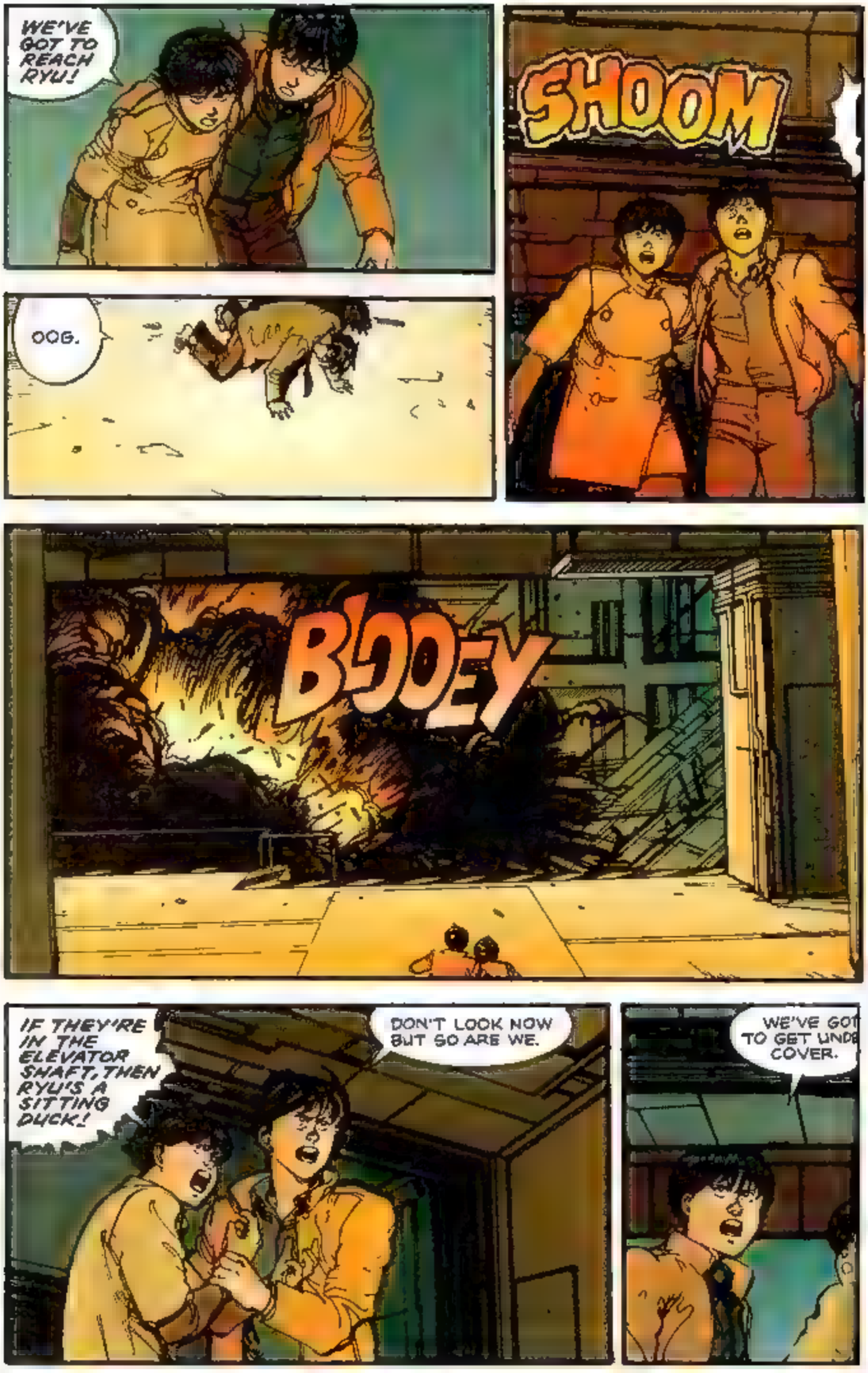
TURN THIS THING AROUND!
ARE YOU CRAZY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO STOP IT!
THAT... THAT LOOKED LIKE KANEDA. WHAT WOULD KANEDA BE DOING HERE?
HUNH?
RYU!!!

NUMBER 41, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
SCREW THAT.
ZAP
KRUNCH
WAIT!!
FWOOM
EYAGA
GOONG


AAAAAA
AAAAA
WE ARE GOING TO CRASH!
TURN AROUND!
HOW?!
GO THAT WAY!
EEEEEK!
VVVVVNNN

VVVVVVNNNN
WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE! BRING THE NOSE UP!
VVT
YIPE!
EET EET
IT WON'T COME UP!
WAAAH!
HELP!
REEEEEE
KAY!

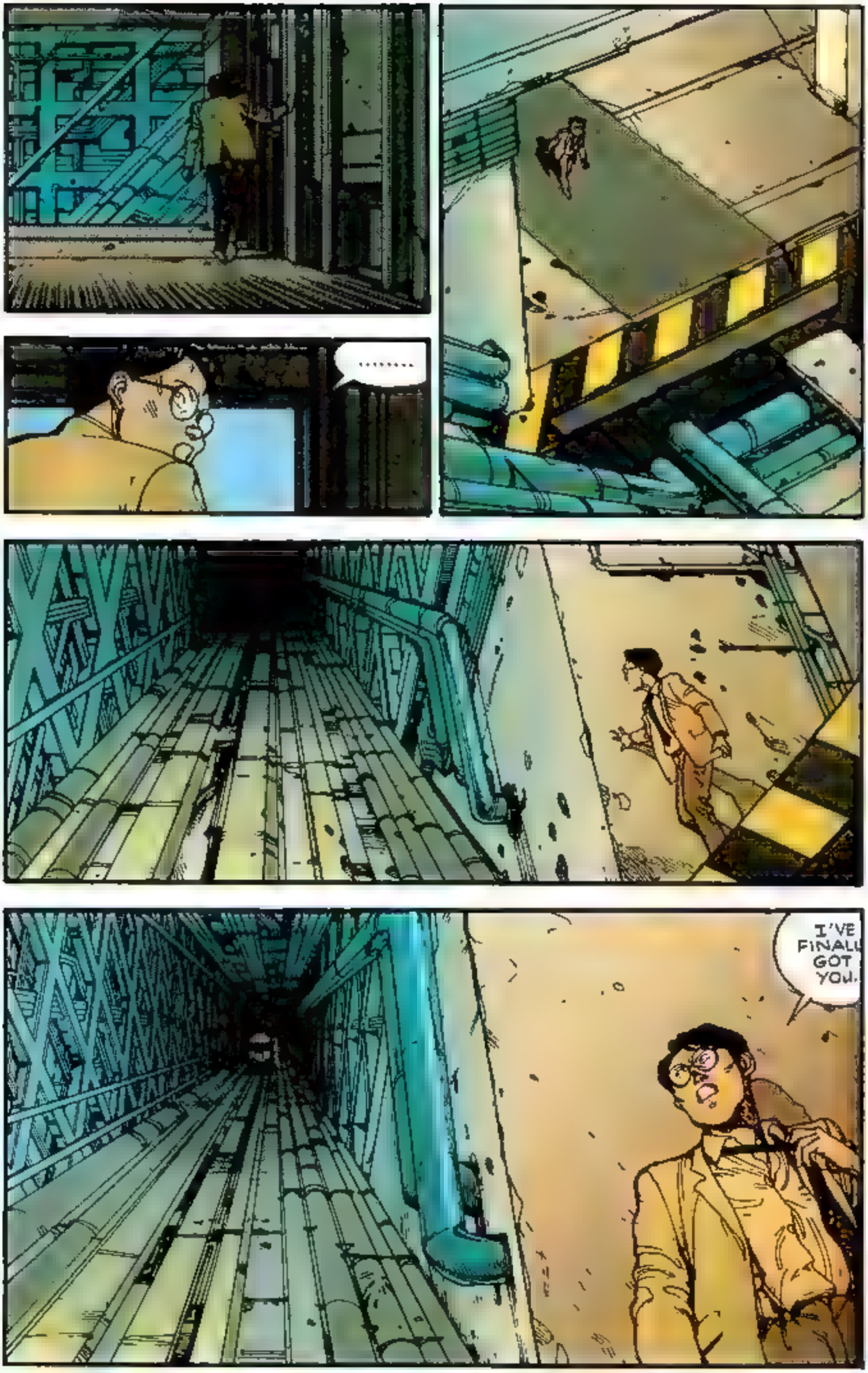
FFT FFT FFT FFT
BOOOOM
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO RYU!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OF COURSE I'M OKAY!

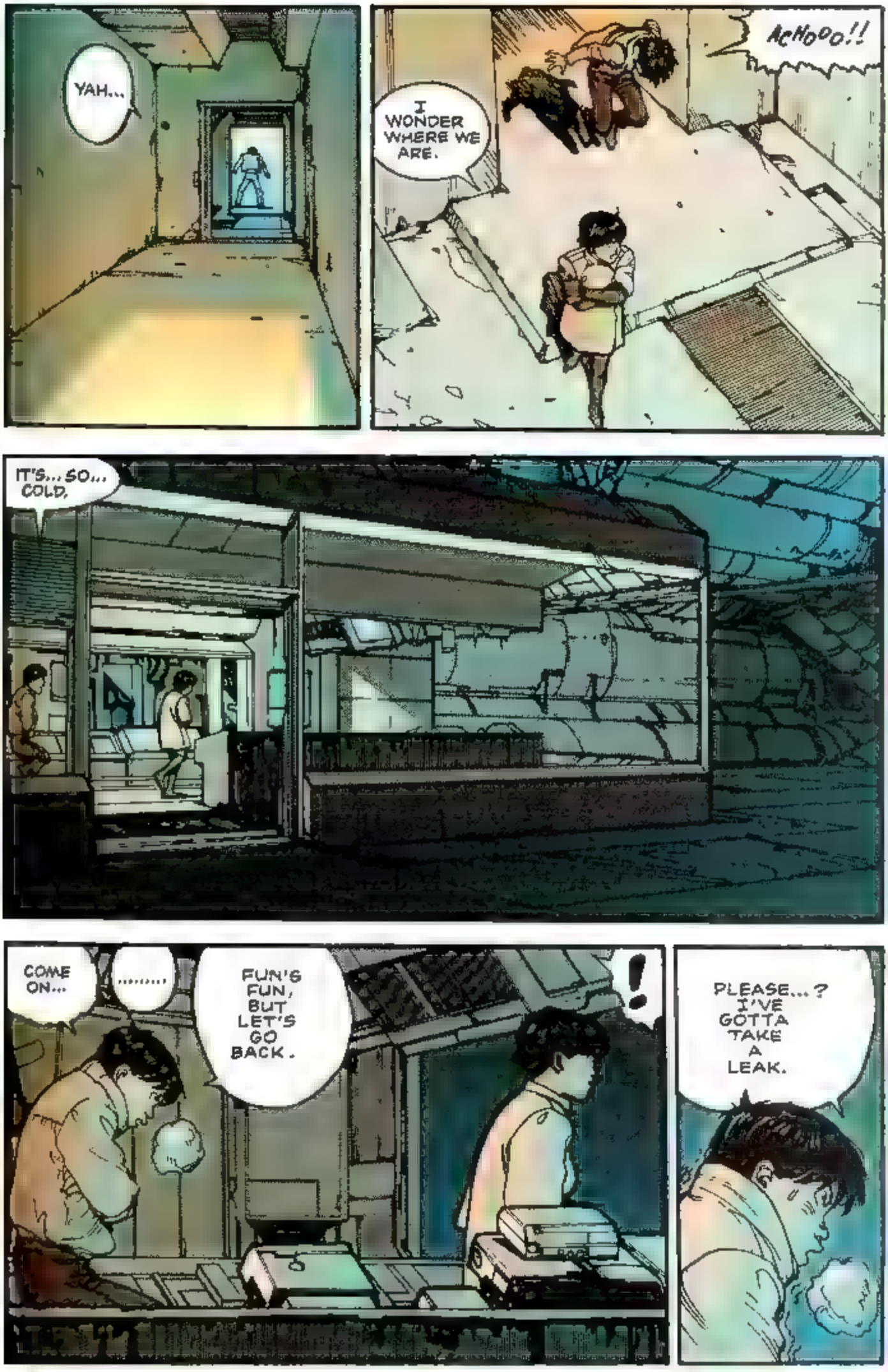

WE'VE GOT TO REACH RYU!
SHOOM
OOG.
BLOOEY
IF THEY'RE IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, THEN RYU'S A SITTING DUCK!
DON'T LOOK NOW BUT SO ARE WE.
WE'VE GOT TO GET UNDE COVER.

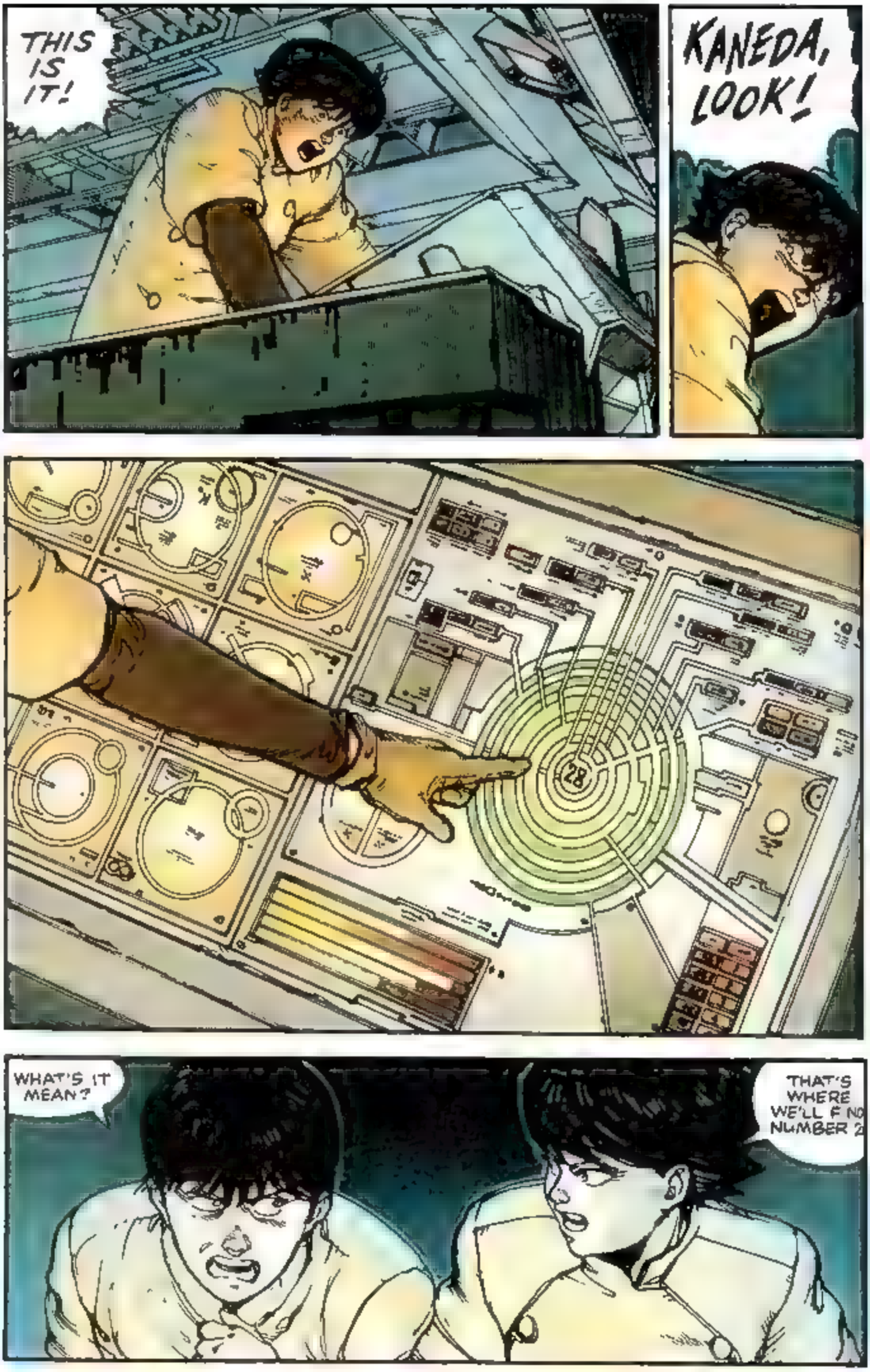
OH, NO!
THE PIPELINE IS ON FIRE!
PULL BACK, YOU IDIOTS! YOU'RE STIMULATING NUMBER 41!

HEH.
I DON'T GET IT. WHY ARE THEY RETREATING?
HEY! C'MERE!
I THINK I CAN GET IT OPEN.
BAM
BAM
BANG
FIND SOMETHIN I CAN BREAK IT DOWN WITH.

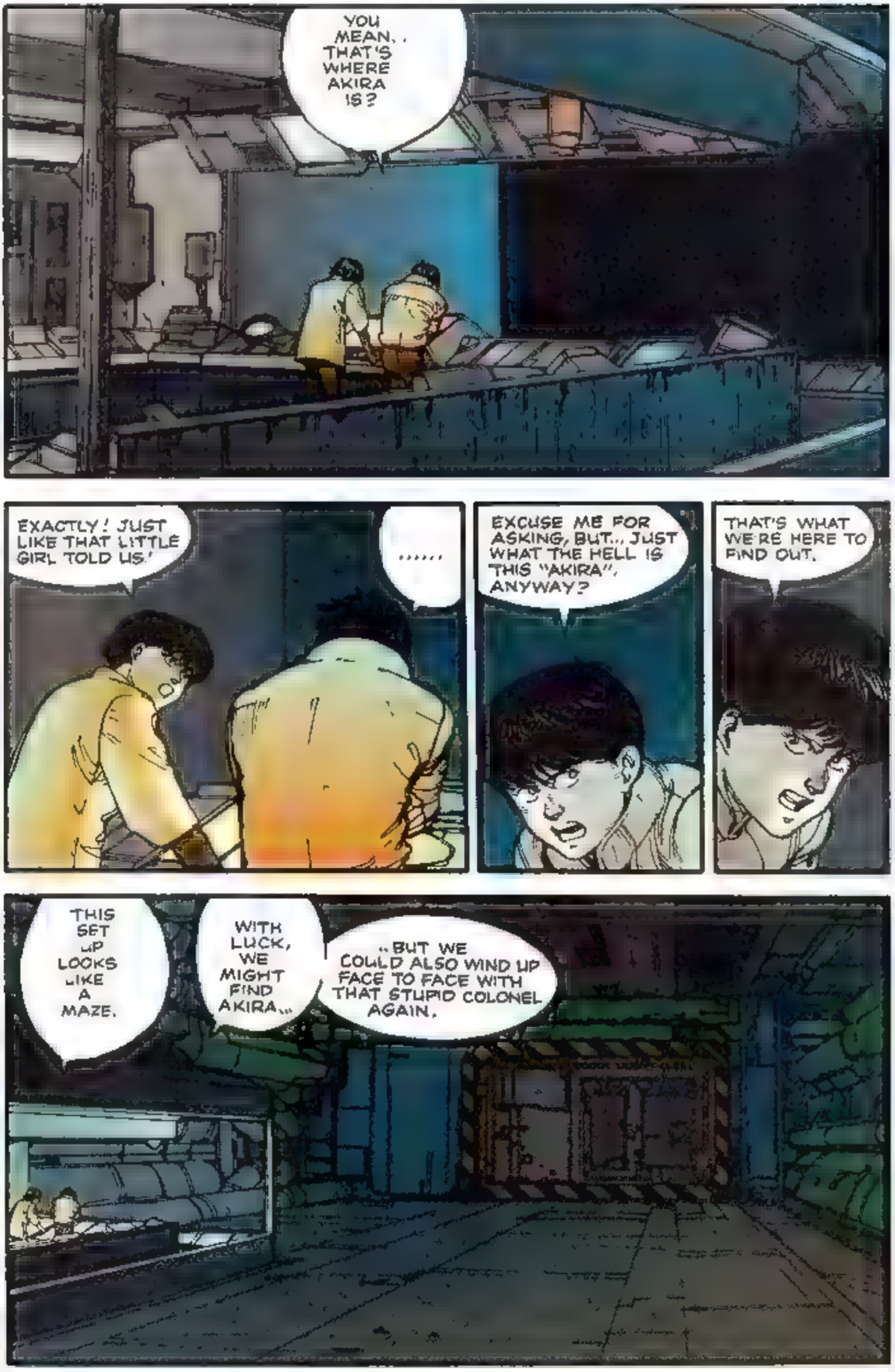
WOK
YARRGHH!
WAK
WOOOOOOOO
WHOA!
IT'S FREEZING IN HERE!
WOOOOOO
AAK
N-NOW WHAT.. ?
WE KEEP GOING.

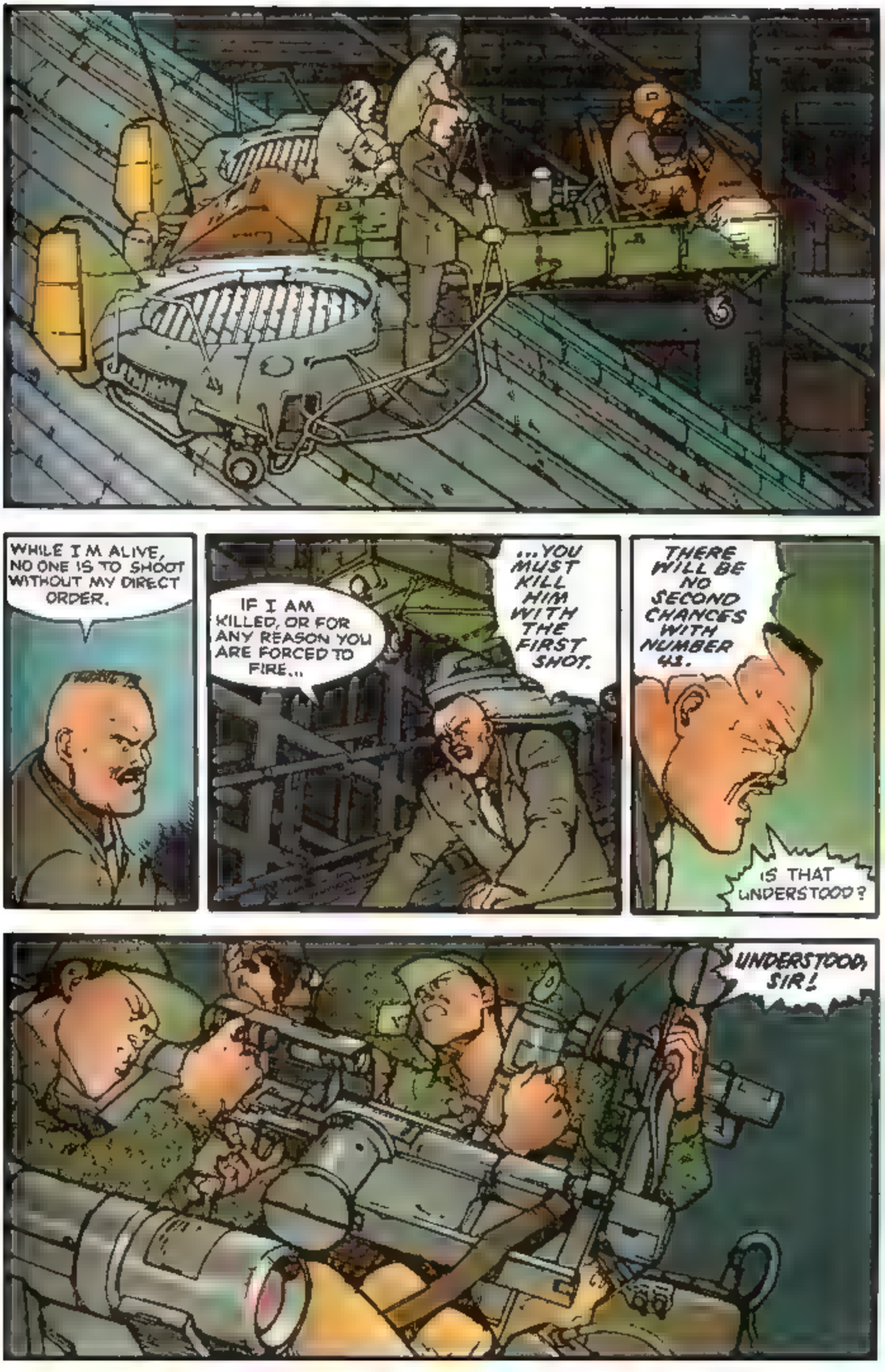

.....
I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU.


YAH...
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
ACHOOO!!
IT'S... SO... COLD.
COME ON...
.....
FUN'S FUN, BUT LET'S GO BACK.
!
PLEASE...? I'VE GOTTA TAKE A LEAK.


THIS IS IT!
KANEDA, LOOK!
28
WHAT'S IT MEAN?
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL F
NUMBER 2

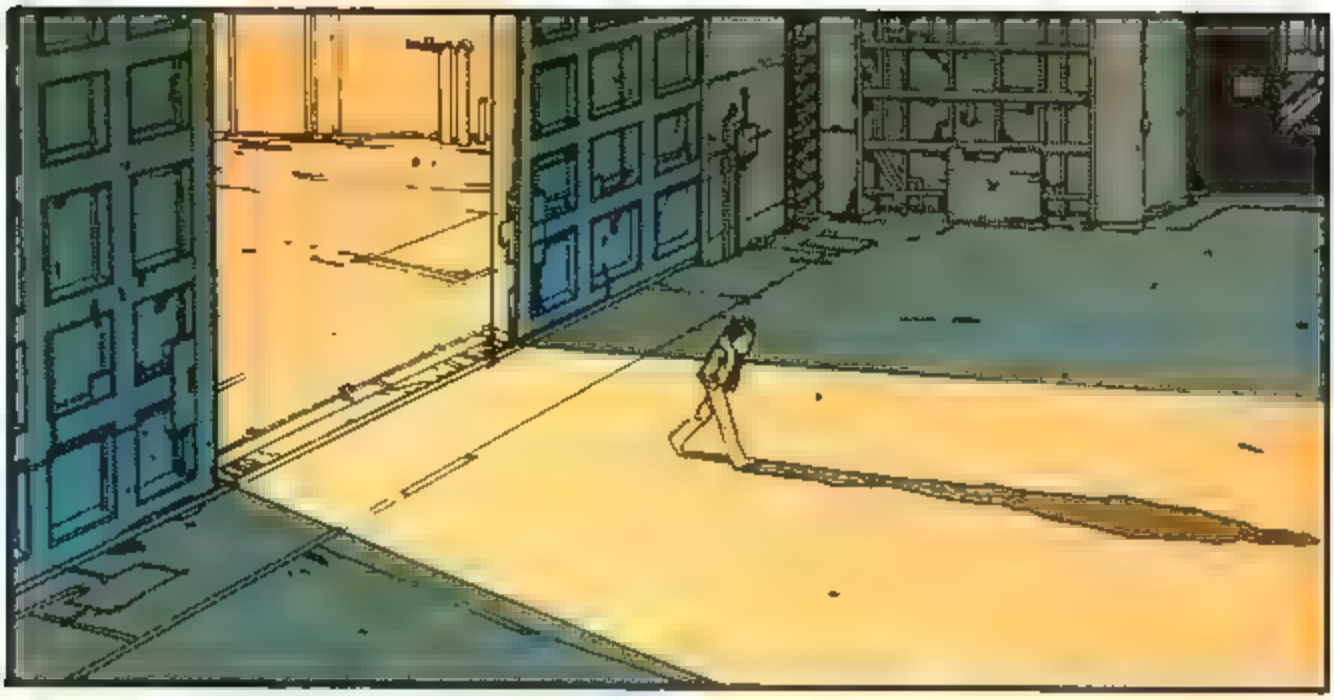
GONG
GOONG
GOOONG
OONG

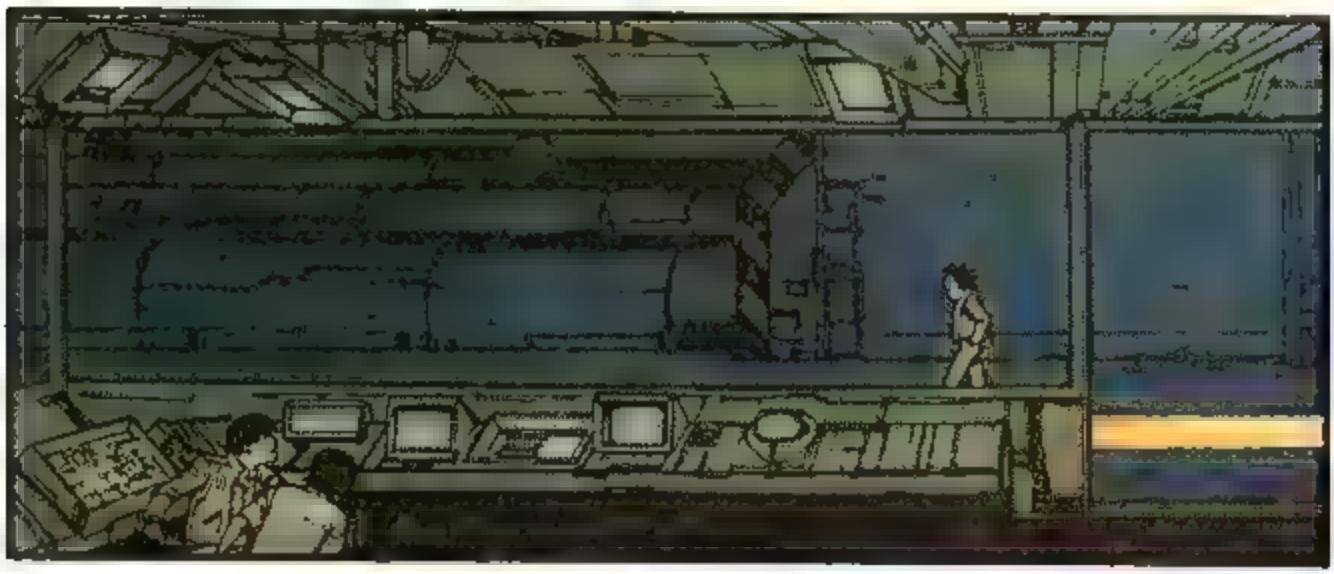

YOU MEAN, . . THAT'S WHERE AKIRA IS?
EXACTLY! JUST LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL TOLD US.
. . . . . .
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS "AKIRA", ANYWAY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT.
THIS SET UP LOOKS LIKE A MAZE.
WITH LUCK, WE MIGHT FIND AKIRA...
...BUT WE COULD ALSO WIND UP FACE TO FACE WITH THAT STUPID COLONEL AGAIN.


WHILE I M ALIVE, NO ONE IS TO SHOOT WITHOUT MY DIRECT ORDER.
IF I AM KILLED, OR FOR ANY REASON YOU ARE FORCED TO FIRE...
...YOU MUST KILL HIM WITH THE FIRST SHOT.
THERE WILL BE NO SECOND CHANCES WITH NUMBER 43.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!

WHERE'D THAT KID GO?
HE WAS JUST HERE.
HOLD IT!
THERE'S SOME-ONE THERE!
IS IT THE KID?
NO!

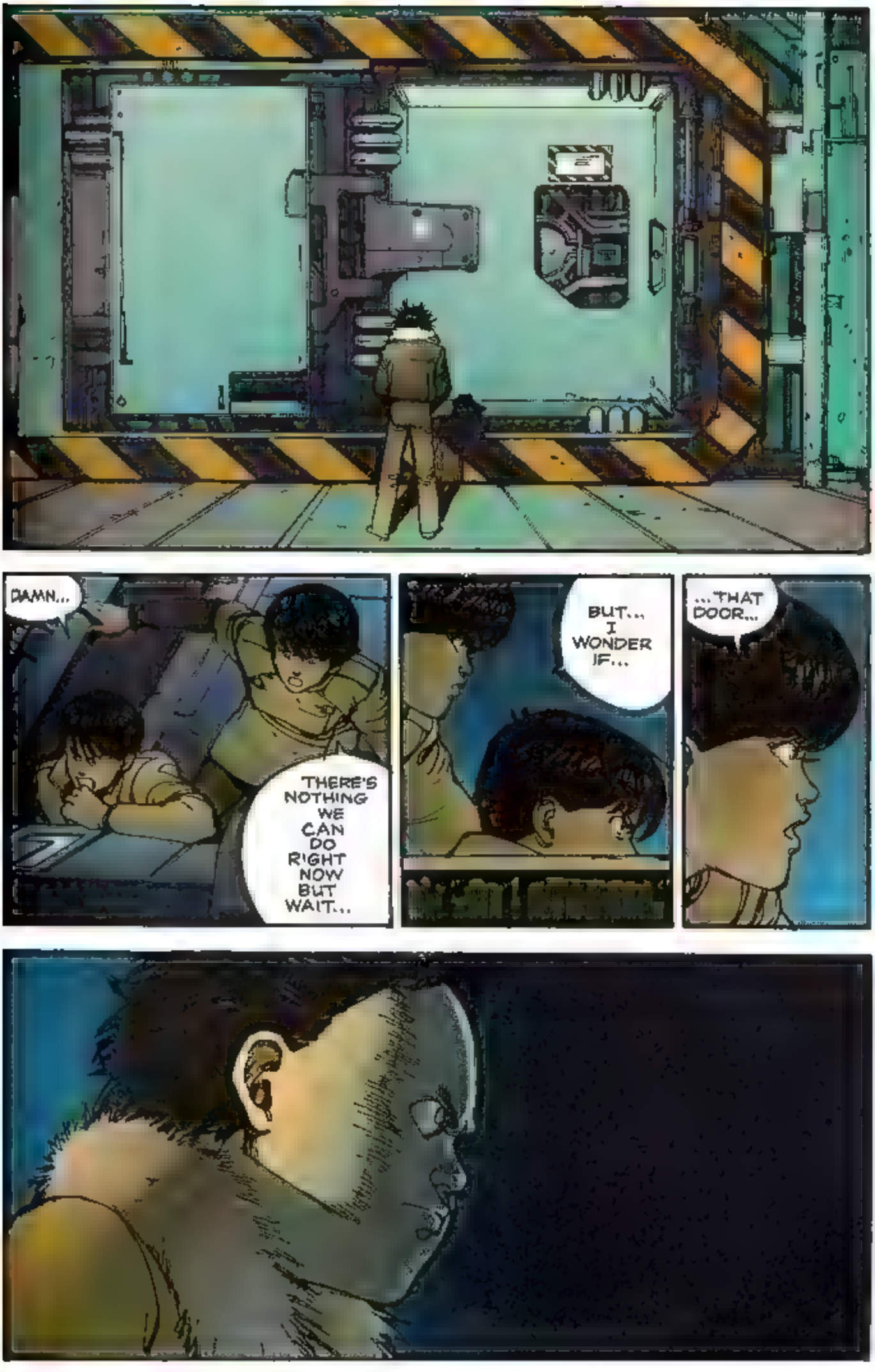
GONG
ONG
HUNH?!





TETSUO...
SHH...

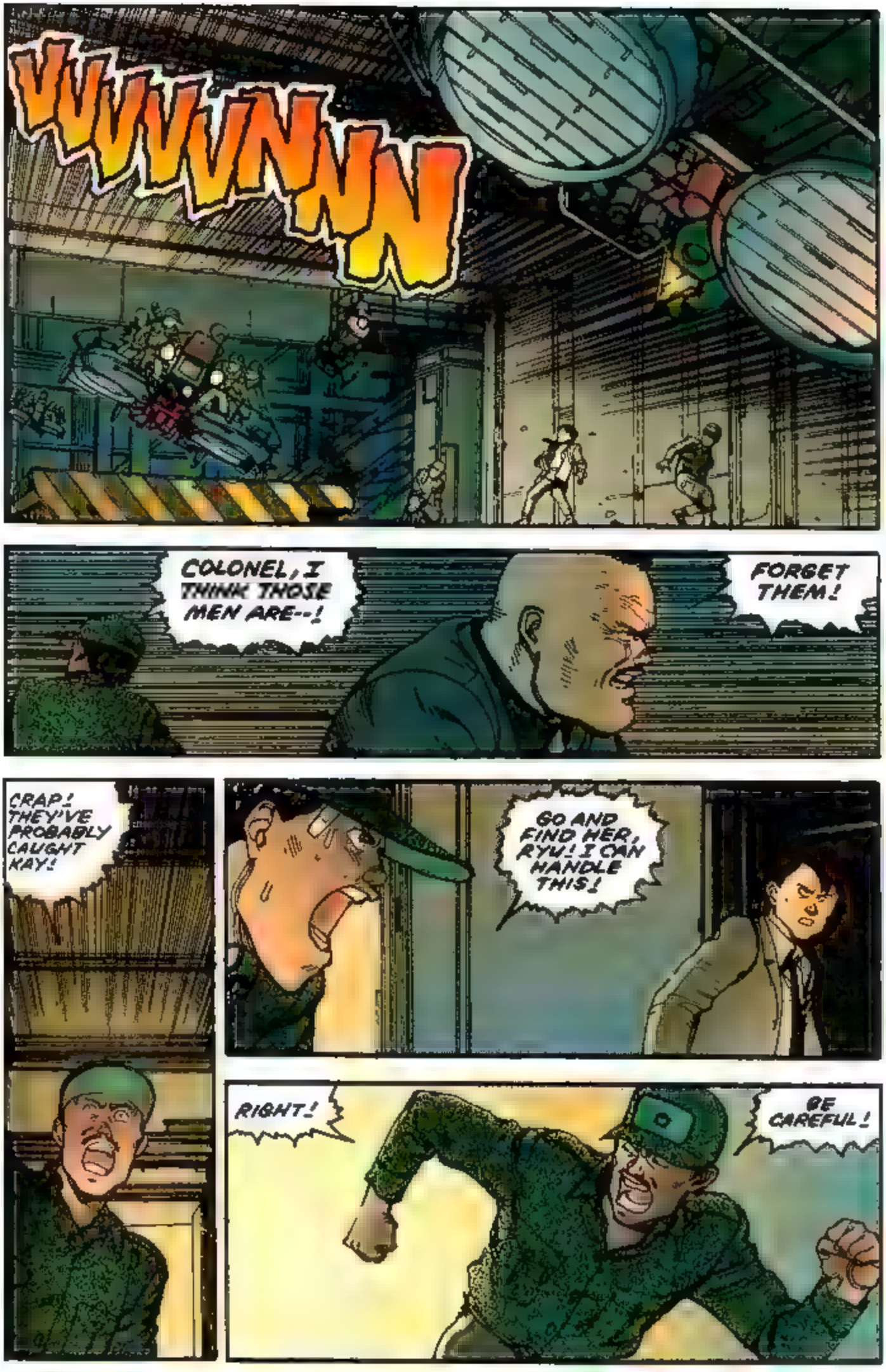
tak


DAMN...
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW BUT WAIT...
BUT... I WONDER IF...
...THAT DOOR...

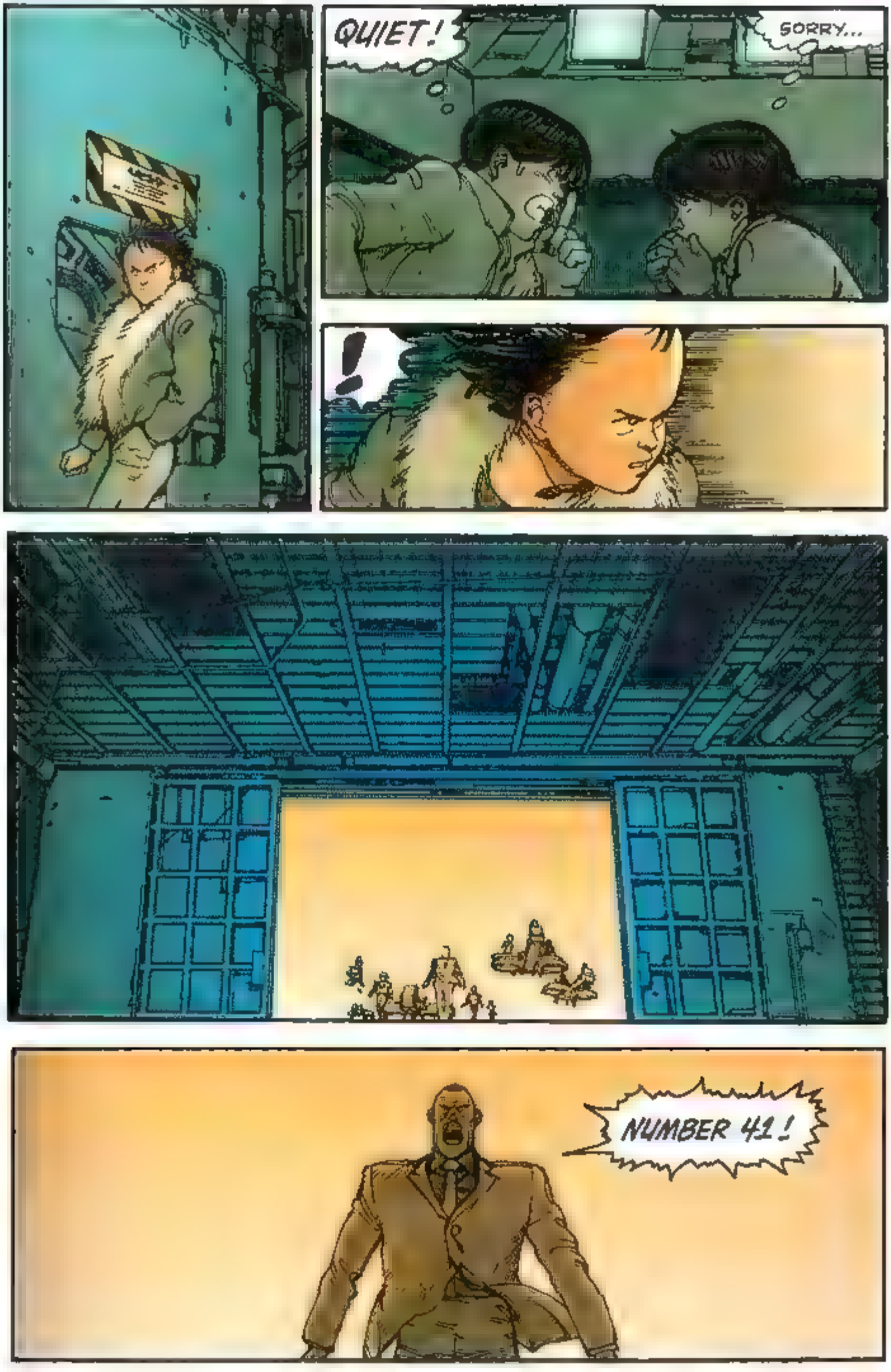
WHO ARE YOU ?!
THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS. I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THE MAN BEHIND YOU.
YOU--?!
I LEFT YOU DEAD!
B-BUT IT CAN'T BE!
AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN.

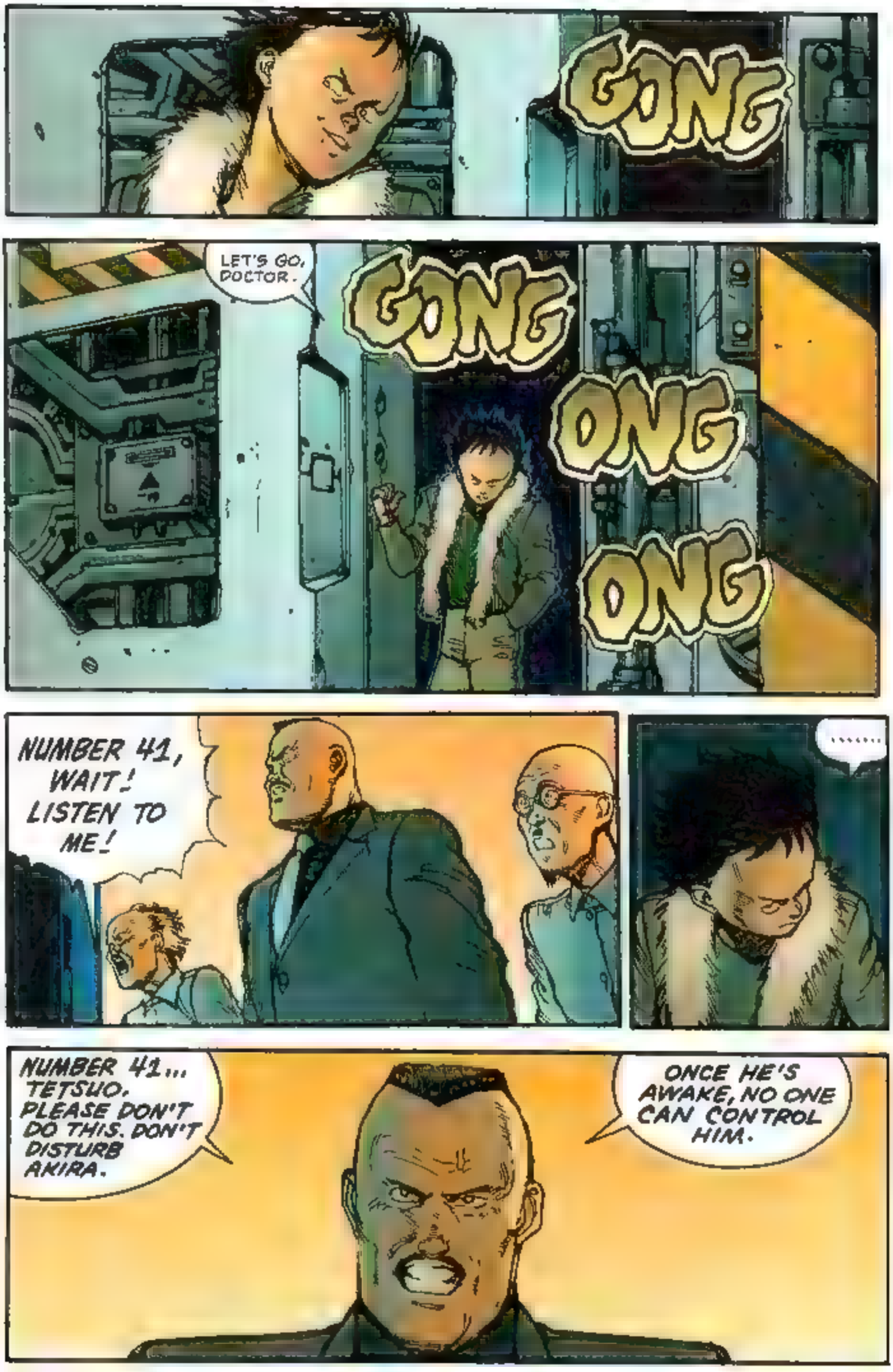
VVVVNNN
EH...?
TAK
!
KRAK
THOM
GAK
UH...
IF YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT ME, ACT FAST!
BOP

klatter
YOU MOTHER...
HMF..
klik
DIE!
VVNNNN
WHAT?!

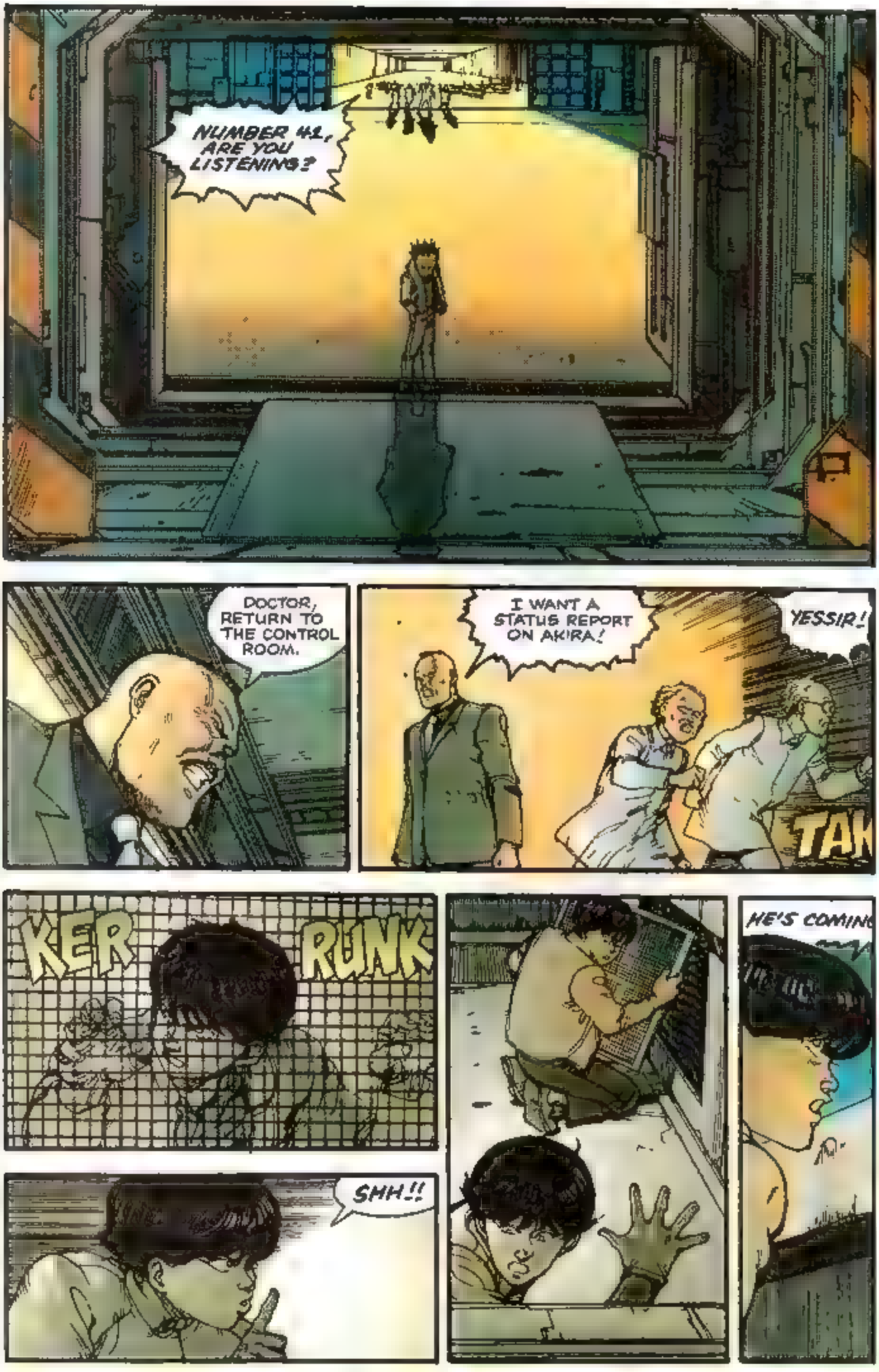

VVVVNNN
COLONEL, I THINK THOSE MEN ARE--!
FORGET THEM!
CRAP! THEY'VE PROBABLY CAUGHT KAY!
GO AND FIND HER, RYU! I CAN HANDLE THIS!
RIGHT!
BE CAREFUL!

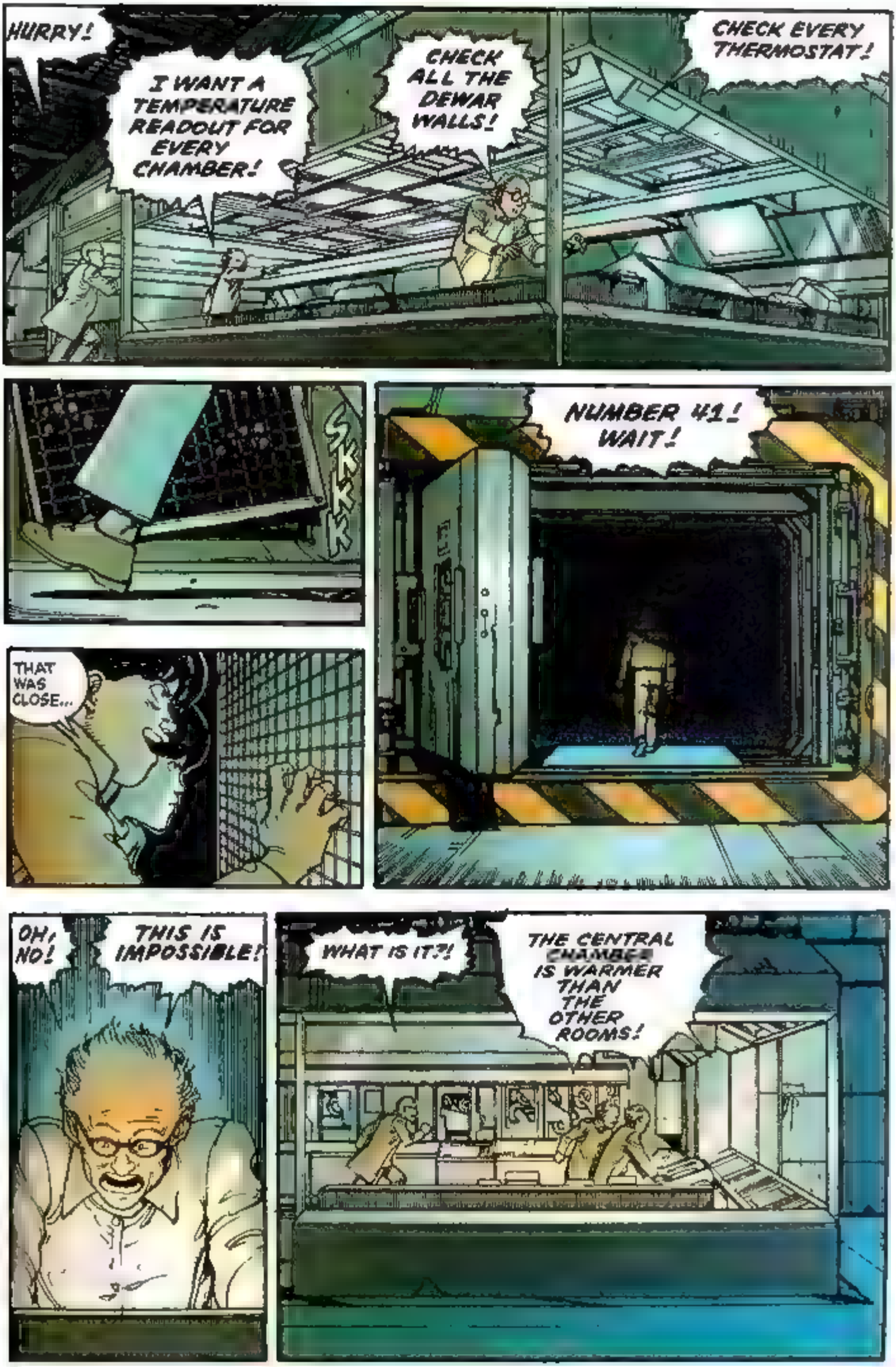
SHOOM
SHOOM
KAGOONG
BEEEEEP
YIEEE!!
HUNH?


QUIET!
SORRY...
!
NUMBER 41!

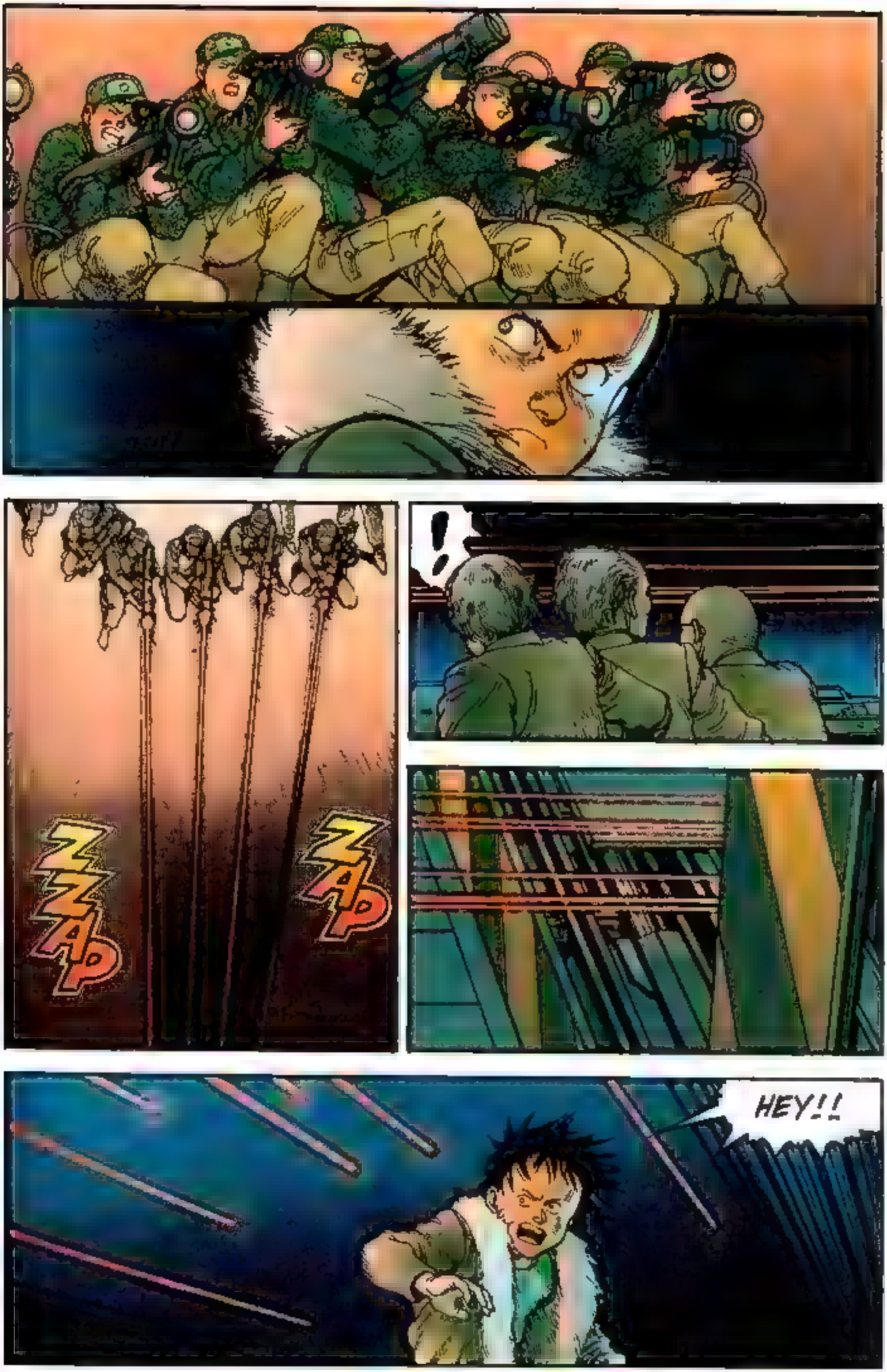

GONG
LET'S GO, DOCTOR.
GONG
ONG
ONG
NUMBER 41, WAIT! LISTEN TO ME!
.....
NUMBER 41... TETSUO. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. DON'T DISTURB AKIRA.
ONCE HE'S AWAKE, NO ONE CAN CONTROL HIM.

GONG
GONG
IT'S ALREADY BEGUN. AKIRA IS RESPONDING TO YOUR PRESENCE.
YOU MUST WITHDRAW WITHOUT AROUSING HIM FURTHER.
HE REPRESENTS A POWER BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING! ONCE YOU AWAKEN HIM, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.
TURN BACK WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THAT CHOICE!
NUMBER 41...

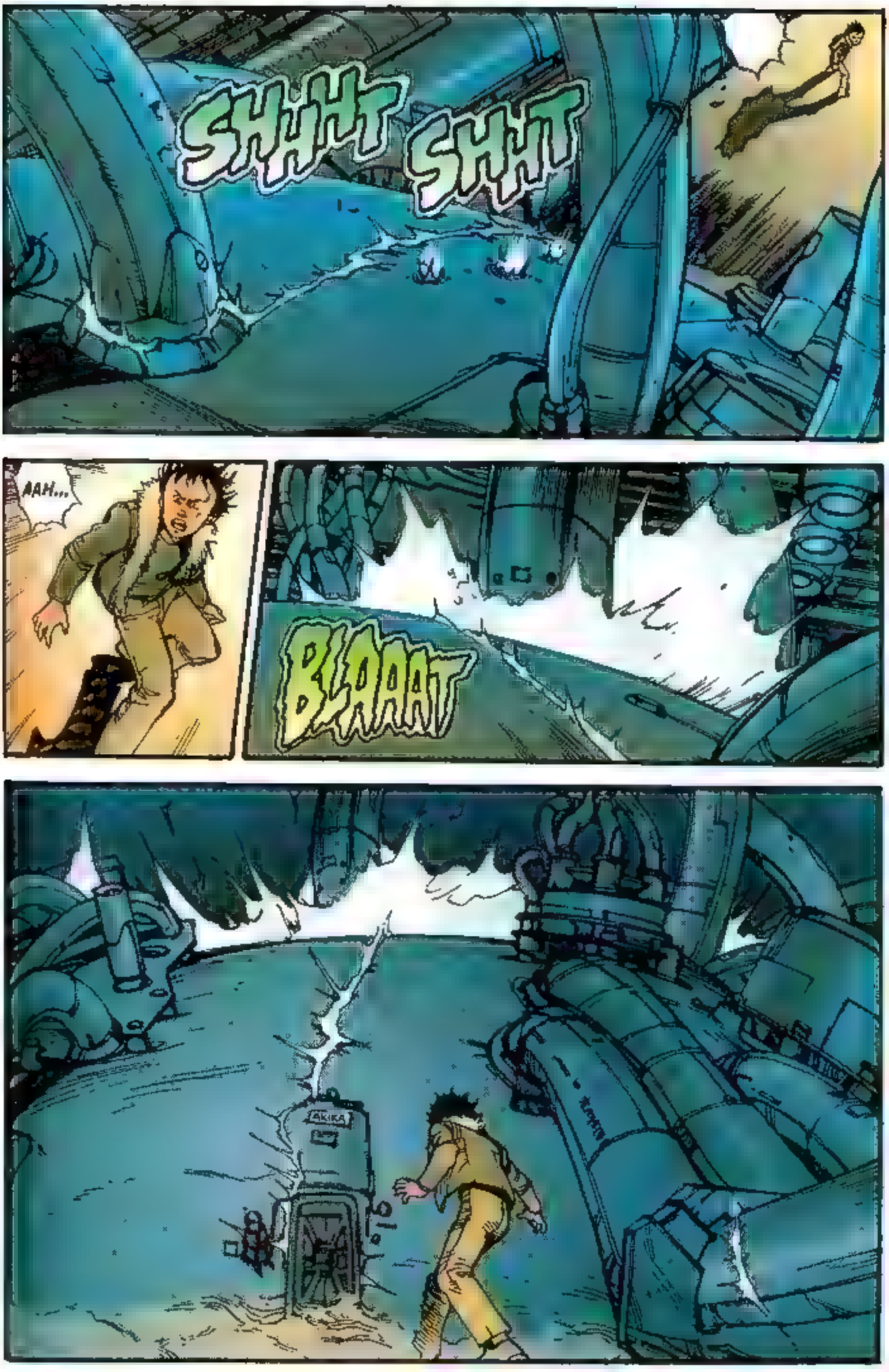

NUMBER 41, ARE YOU LISTENING?
DOCTOR, RETURN TO THE CONTROL ROOM.
I WANT A STATUS REPORT ON AKIRA!
YESSIR!
TAK
KER
RUNK
SHH!!
HE'S COMIN

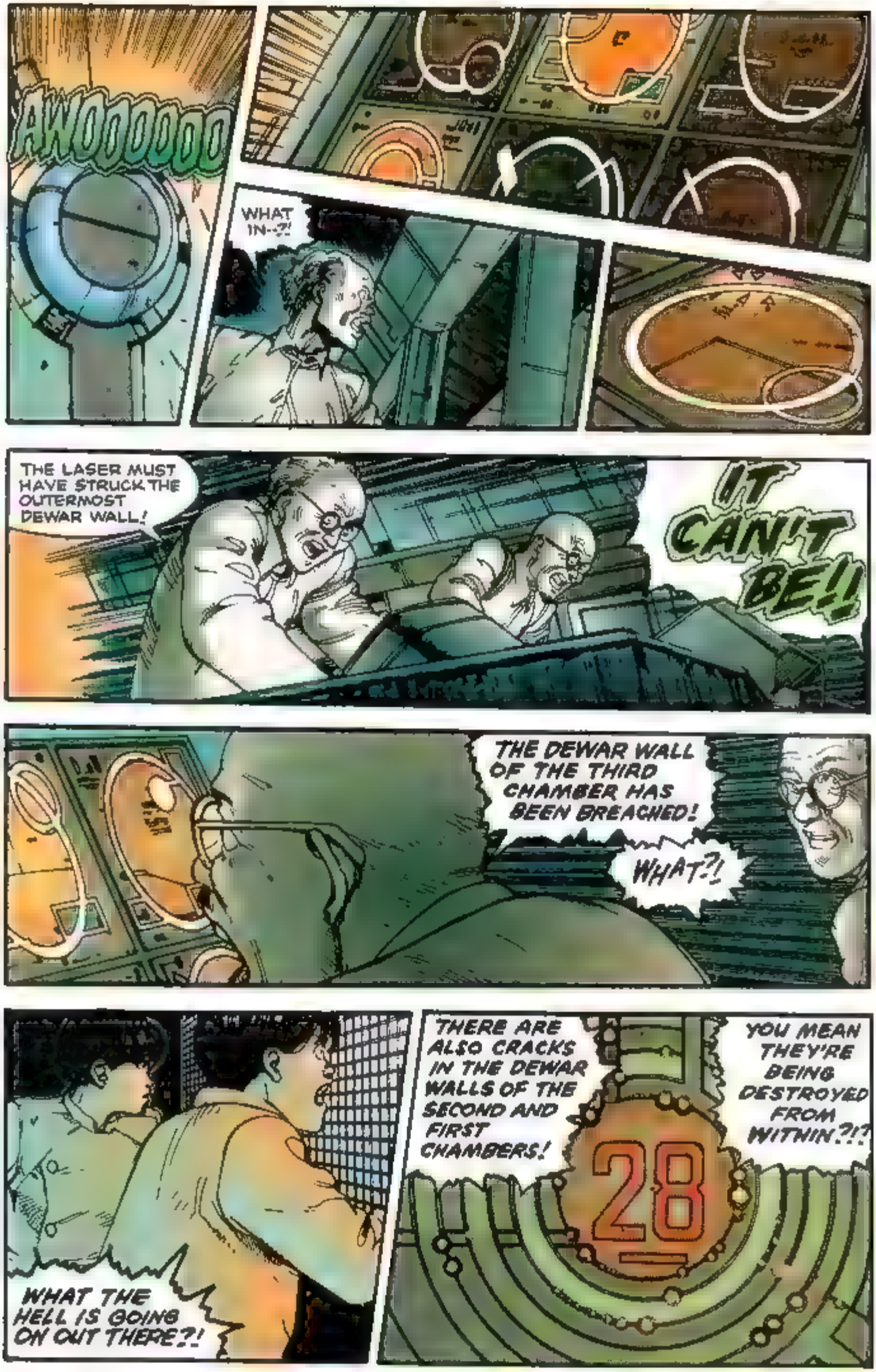

HURRY!
I WANT A TEMPERATURE READOUT FOR EVERY CHAMBER!
CHECK ALL THE DEWAR WALLS!
CHECK EVERY THERMOSTAT!
SKK
NUMBER 41! WAIT!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
OH, NO!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT IS IT?!
THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS WARMER THAN THE OTHER ROOMS!

TETSUOO!
IS HE AWAKE
BAH..
28
COLONEL!
FIRE

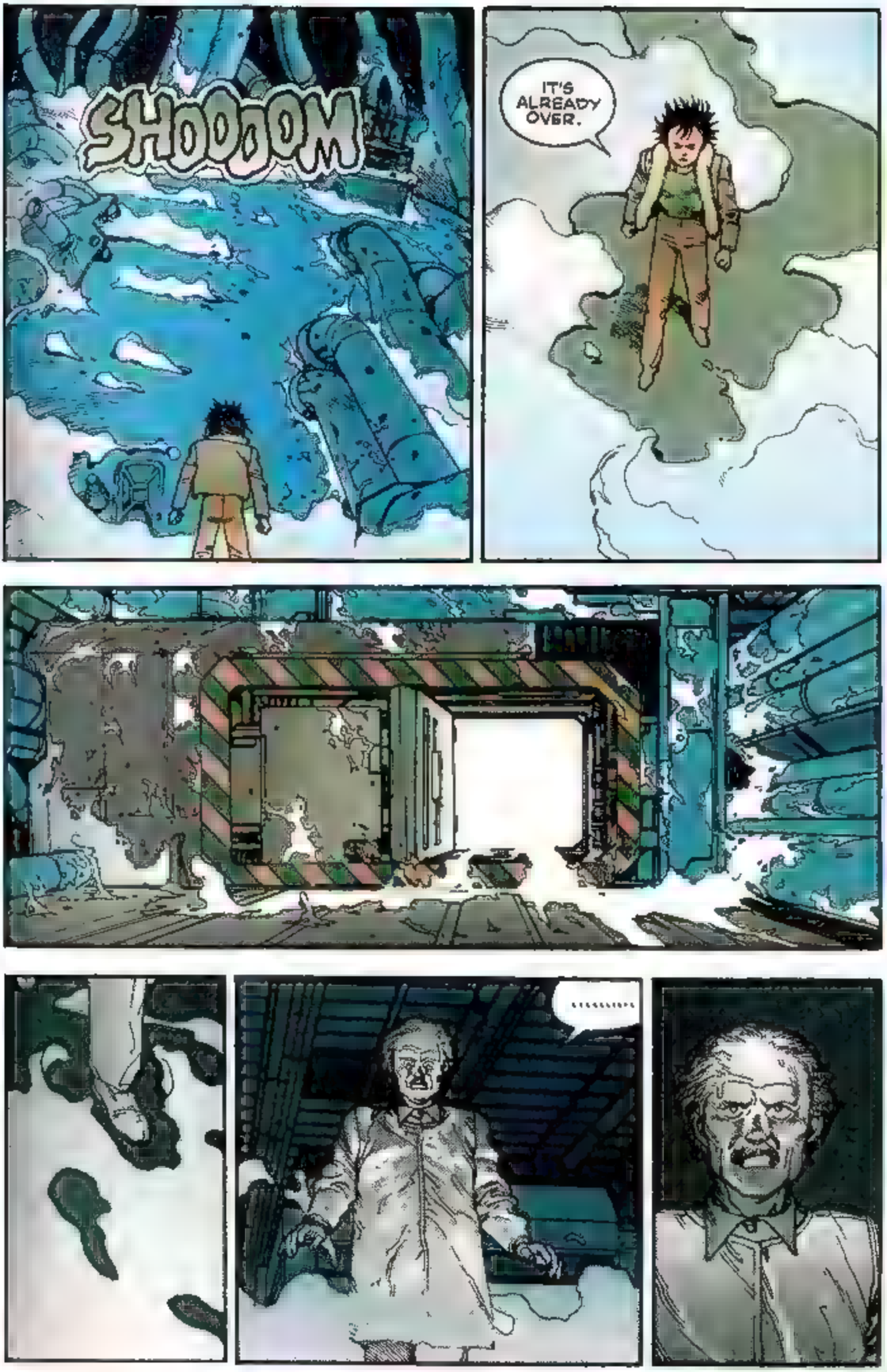

ZZZAP
ZAP
!
HEY!!

ZZZNNN
ACK--!
STOP IT!
YIPE!
ZIIP
ZIIP
K-KANEDA...


SHHHT SHHT
AAH...
BLAAAT
AKIRA


AWOOOOOO
WHAT IN--?!
THE LASER MUST HAVE STRUCK THE OUTERMOST DEWAR WALL!
IT CAN'T BE!!
THE DEWAR WALL OF THE THIRD CHAMBER HAS BEEN BREACHED!
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON OUT THERE?!
THERE ARE ALSO CRACKS IN THE DEWAR WALLS OF THE SECOND AND FIRST CHAMBERS!
YOU MEAN THEY'RE BEING DESTROYED FROM WITHIN?!?
28

GONG ONG ONG
YAGH!
TAKE CAREFUL AIM! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS HIM!
SHOOOM
DAMN!
HUNH?


SHOOOOM
IT'S ALREADY OVER.

NEXT ISSUE: **AKIRA RISING**

OTOMO KATSUHIRO ART WORK

It has been our pleasure to share with our readers the beautfully rendered black and white line art of Katsuhiro in past issues of Akira This month, we would like to let you peek into the wider world of Otomo's work. A forthcoming coffee table book called **Otomo Katsuhiro Artwork—Kaba** will showcase the wide and varied work Mister Otomo has done over the years (The book should be available where you bought this comic) It is a beautiful book of a master illustrator Trying to find just one image for this page was very difficult Finally, I settled for a piece from the Illustration chapter one of the five sections in the book

The art was done for **Shinjuku Graphic Map**, Kinokuniya Co., Ltd. It was done in 1980 and the medium is pen and color tone

KATSUHIRO OTOMO
writer/illustrator

YASUMITSU SUETAKE
chief assitant to Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI
SATOSHI TAKABATAKE
assistants to Mr. Otomo

HIROSHI HIRATA
designer, AKIRA calograph

AKIRA SAITO
designer, Kosansha edition

Kodansha Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA
with LINDA M. YORK
translation

KOICHI YURI
editor, Kodansha edition

NORIYUKI OKAZAKI
YUKA ANDO
editorial coordinators

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY
english adaptation

STEVE OLIFF
with the
OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW
colorists

MICHAEL HIGGINS
letterer

HARRY CANDELARIO
production

MARIE JAVINS
assistant editor

MARGARET CLARK
editor

ARCHIE GOODWIN
editor in chief

Beneath the half finished Olympic Stadium, AKIRA sleeps, peaceful and oblivious, while above him rages a battle to see who will control his future. Tetsuo, a powerful paranormal, seeks to awaken Akira, to see just *who* this extraordinary being is. Fearful of the dire consequences of waking Akira, Kiyoko, a paranormal herself, has come to the aid of Kay, a member of the Resistance, by endowing Kay temporarily with psychic powers. Kay now races through the sewers of Neo-Tokyo with Kaneda, a "friend" of Tetsuo, hoping they will reach the Stadium first... While above ground, the Colonel, who is charged with controlling all paranormals, has marshalled the elite forces of the Army to stop Tetsuo—no matter what the cost.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

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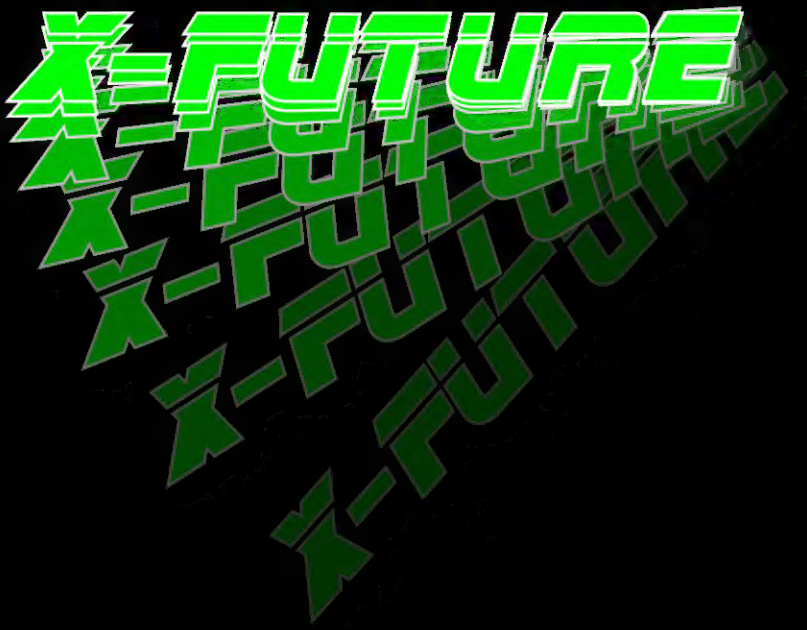

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um

AKIRA